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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-003 *5 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, 'Urayqat View Cairo Talks With Israel

JN0301182995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jan 95

[Report by political affairs correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, conducted within the framework of the Higher Liaison Committee, began in Cairo a short while ago in a tense atmosphere against the background of the latest developments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, namely last night's killing of four Palestinian police near Bayt Hanun in the Gaza strip. Before the negotiations began, the Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa set up a three-way session at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which brought together, besides himself, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, with a view to easing tension and advancing the negotiations and promoting positive results.

Israeli and Palestinian delegates held consultations at noon today to formulate an agenda for their discussions. Joining the consultations were Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and territories coordinator at the Defense Ministry Major General Dani Rothschild, and Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat for the Palestinian side.

Emerging from the session, Dr. Sha'th said the atmosphere was tense and cited recent developments, but could not be drawn on the Palestinian demands on the Israeli side.

[Begin Sha'th recording] The atmosphere here is one of real crisis following the killing of Palestinian police in Bayt Hanun and the settlements issue. This session is being held to look at these issues and explore how the peace process can be sustained while these obstacles remain. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is on the Palestinian negotiating team, said a short while ago the Palestinian side presented its demands to the Israeli delegation.

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] In my opinion, the Israeli Government must make a clear and explicit undertaking to halt all settlement activity in the West Bank and free the detainees. Should the Israeli Government opt for continued settlement building, the peace process, in my opinion, will become meaningless.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: What can you tell us about the meeting grouping 'Amr Musa and Shim'on Peres and Nabil Sha'th, and which you joined?

['Urayqat] In the working lunch hosted by Mr. 'Amr Musa, all these issues were raised. We presented a detailed, written report indicating the number of the Jewish settlements that have been built since the peace process began through 20 October 1994 and the lands expropriated in December 1994. We said at the meeting there seems to be conceptual differences between us. The idea behind the peace process, as we see it, is a progressive elimination of occupation. Accordingly, I think by sticking with this settlement drive, the Israeli Government is rendering the peace process meaningless and leaving nothing to negotiate about. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sha'th: 'Peres Made Three Promises' at Cairo

JN040[illegible]84495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation of the Palestinian Authority, by Fathi al-Barqawi on 4 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation of the National Authority. Hello?

[Sha'th] Hello.

[Al-Barqawi] The joint Liaison Committee held a meeting in Cairo yesterday. Will you please tell us of the results?

[Sha'th] Yesterday's meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee was important because it took place in a complicated and eventful atmosphere that is threatening the peace process. We went to the meeting, bearing in mind the al-Khadir village incidents, Israel's feverish campaign to expand its settlements, and the crime committed against the Palestinian police in Bayt Hanun in Gaza. As a result of the crime, four Palestinian policemen were martyred. I consider the incident as a premeditated crime. Meanwhile, our men and women prisoners are still in Israeli jails for no reason other than keeping them as political hostages. Other developments are also taking place in Jerusalem. Therefore, the meeting was difficult, and all these events overshadowed it.

Following the end of the meeting, Peres made three promises: Israel pledges not to confiscate any Palestinian piece of land on which settlement activities took place, not to build any new settlement, and not to use public money to expand any settlement.

[Al-Barqawi] Have these promises satisfied the Palestinian side, Dr. Sha'th?

[Sha'th] In fact, they are just part of what we want. However, they are important and we stick to them. But we also wanted Israel not to add any new buildings to any existing settlement and not to open roads to settlements on Palestinian territories, at least before obtaining Palestinian approval. Such roads, however, should serve Palestinians as well as settlers.

[Al-Barqawi] It seems that no important decision has been made on the prisoners issue?

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[Sha'th] Regrettably, the Israelis once again claimed during the meeting that they were not ready to discuss the issue, although Peres and Moshe Shahal said that what they had heard from me about the prisoners would prompt them to raise the issue anew in order to release these Palestinian heroes. To me, this issue is no less important than the settlement problem, or any other similar problem facing us. Although we enjoy limited freedom under difficult circumstances, our heroes, who launched their intifadah and their struggle against the Israeli occupation on our orders, should not remain in the prisons.

[Al-Barqawi] Dr. Sha'th, yesterday you announced that a new meeting would be held between Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. When will the meeting take place?

[Sha'th] The two sides will consult to hold the meeting next week.

[Al-Barqawi] Are there specific topics on the agenda?

[Sha'th] Yes. The main topic centers on the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank.

[Al-Barqawi] Dr. Sha'th, thank you.

[Sha'th] Thanks.

Sha'th on Settlements, Release of Detainees

JN0401081195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet at Erez checkpoint next week to pursue their negotiations on expanding the National Authority [NA] areas.

Chief Palestinian Negotiator Dr. Nabil Sha'th said this to the press at the end of the joint Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo last night. The NA minister of planning and international cooperation said Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who headed the Israeli delegation to the committee's meetings, will attend the Erez meeting.

For his part, Peres said that his government's decision last Monday calls for not building any new settlements, confiscating lands for expanding the established settlements, or using public funds to expand settlements.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that the issue of the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, who number around 6,000, has been discussed in detail and that the Israeli delegation promised to expeditiously discuss the issue with the Israeli Government.

Dr. Sha'th said that the detainees are nationalist activists who fought against occupation. He rejected the Israeli pretext that their hands are stained with blood. He added: The hands of the Israeli pilots who raided Palestinian camps are also stained with blood, as well as the hands of every Israeli official who ordered fire opened on the intifadah children. It is worth noting that 60 percent of the detainees are Fatah members.

Sha'th: Murderers To Stay in Israeli Prison

TA0401191295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In yesterday's Cairo talks, 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that the Palestinians have agreed that the murderers of children and women will remain incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Sha'th claimed that 60 percents of the prisoners support Fatah and the peace process.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration States' Officials End Meetings

NC0401153595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Senior officials from the Damascus Declaration countries ended two days of meetings at the Foreign Ministry today.

Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, said the conferees held consultations on topics contained in working papers presented by some delegations.

He said the consultations were held in an atmosphere of frankness and constructive spirit, which made things easy for everybody.

He said the consultations have made some progress in our path and will continue in another meeting on 29 and 30 January in Cairo to work out the final recommendations that will be forwarded to the meeting of the foreign ministers in Cairo in the first week of February.

Arab Interior Ministers Council Meets in Tunis

Honorary Chairman 'Optimistic' on Agenda

LD0401213595 Riyadh SPA in English 1942 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tunis, 4 Jan, SPA—Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the honourary chairman of the Arab Interior Ministers Council has expressed optimism that the council will reach consensus on all issues on the agenda.

In a statement to the press following the inaugural session of the council's 12th meetings in Tunis, Prince Nayif said he hoped the council would be an effective member in the international community of law inforcement and combating crime regardless of its type, place or time.

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Asked about his meetings with fellow Arab interior ministers on the sidelines of the conference, he said they were good and useful and "anyway, the outcome of the meetings will speak for themselves."

He confirmed that Arab interior ministers work within their responsibilities for security in their countries and aim to achieve the interests of Arab security in general.

He said Arab interior ministries are responsible for combating terrorism and that Islamic Sharia provides the guidelines for this fight against extremism.

He added that there are numerous types of terrorism and stressed that "what we insist on is that Islam should not be the instrumentfor some people."

"Islam promotes fraternity and preserving the dignity of humans in their life, money and honour, and also calls for preserving the life of (other) humans," he said.

Later in the day, Prince Nayif graced a luncheon hosted by the council's secretary general Dr. Ahmad al-Salem in honour of the Arab interior ministers.

Meeting Opens With Ben Ali Address

LD0401145395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed the readiness of the new era Tunisia to contribute in every way it can to consolidate Arab ties and joint security action to fulfil the Arab countries aspirations of high standing, and overall stability and strength. In a speech delivered on his behalf by Abdallah Kallel, minister of interior and minister of state, at the opening of the 12th session of the Arab interior ministers council in Tunis this morning, the president said that the Arab homeland and the international community as a whole are experiencing the effects of a rapid succession of events characterizing the end of this century. [passage omitted]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed Tunisia's pride in hosting the 12th session of the Arab interior ministers council, and his satisfaction at the council's eagerness to promote comprehensive reconciliation and unite Arab ranks. [passage omitted]

The head of state pointed out that the extensive positive cooperation which the Arab states have succeeded in achieving in the field of combating organized crime and new crimes is bound to contribute toward further preventing the symptoms of those crimes. He noted that Arab cooperation in that field is better than in other international assemblies. [passage omitted]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed his appreciation and encouragement for the move to study the crimes of terrorism in depth and seriously, and to look into the means needed to deal with this dangerous issue. He expressed hope that the Arab nations will enjoy peaceful, secure and tranquil living, and for all the Arab nation's efforts to be directed toward serving the interests of its present generations and guaranteeing the future of its coming generations. [passage omitted]

Concerning the issue of drugs, the head of state pointed out that the council's interest in this phenomenon is the best indication of the member countries' concern for protecting the Arab man, who constantly remains the foundation of the nation and the spring of its renewed wealth. [passage omitted]

In this context, he stressed that strengthening cooperation between the Arab countries in the sphere of combating drugs has become more urgent at a time when the traditional markets for dealing in drugs are heavily and intensively besieged, not only at the legal and media levels, but also at the operational and security levels, a matter which has made the organized smuggling networks, or even individual smugglers, search for alternative markets from which the Arab region might not be excluded. In this context, his excellency praised the efforts exerted by the Arab security bodies until now, and called for the need to intensify and coordinate these efforts and command the best forms of combating [drugs] for controlling the phenomenon of production, promotion, and use.

The head of state praised the serious recommendations included in the council's documents regarding reform work in penal institutions, adding that the practical application of these recommendations were evident in Tunisian reform institutions, where reform work has been given a priority within the framework of the established principles of consolidating human rights. [passage omitted]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali ended his address by again praising the great support given to the Arab interior ministers council by its honorary chairman His Royal Highness [Saudi Interior Minister] Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, chairman of the Arab Center for Security Studies and Training, which has given a boost to progress in this special sphere of joint Arab action.

Syria's Harbah on Organized Crime, Narcotics

JN0401180695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis—[Syrian] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has emphasized that Syria has worked, and is still working, for a just and comprehensive peace that restores its land and rights in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

In a speech he delivered today when he chaired the opening of the 12th session of the Arab interior ministers council, he said Israel continues to deceive international public opinion and obstruct the peace process because it wants both security and land.

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The interior minister spoke about the agenda topics. He said these Arab meetings are held within the framework of a serious desire to continue Arab cooperation and coordination to confront crime and to spread security and stability in Arab societies. He stressed that Arab solidarity is a vital necessity for the continuation of the Arab nation.

The interior minister said it is in the interests of joint Arab security to pay attention to organized crime by a deep study of its dangers and to search for effective solutions to combat it.

Dr. Harbah reviewed the achievements of the last year, especially concerning Syria's endorsement of the Arab agreement on combating illegal trafficking in narcotics and drugs that was approved by the council during its last session. [passage omitted]

Algeria's Cherif on Arab Stance on 'Terrorism'

LD0401221995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Arab interior ministers started their meeting in Tunis today within their 12th session. [passage omitted]

Terrorism and ways of eradicating it took up the best part of the session. This topic was analyzed by Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, our interior minister, in his address to the meeting. Our correspondent in the Tunisian capital has details of this meeting:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Mr. Cherif delivered a long speech in which he assessed the achievements of the Arab interior ministers council in its previous sessions and gave an account of the security situation in Algeria and its circumstances. He criticized some of the sisterly countries who take a negative position toward what is happening in Algeria and said that a white paper on terrorism in Algeria, attached to other documents, will be presented to the participants in the session.

[Begin Cherif recording] In its past session, our venerable council issued a statement condemning all forms of terrorism. It decided, among other things, to consolidate the joint Arab security process to effectively confront violent and terrorist acts aimed at undermining the security and safety of any Arab country and at violating the rights and freedoms of Arab citizens.

It is the duty of us all to review the result of this security process, and as I have already said, we will be judged by the results we achieve. So what has been achieved in this respect? Have we made enough efforts to attain the goal that our council outlined here in Tunis a year ago?

If openness brings comfort, as the Arab saying goes, I find it my duty to tell you openly that the common action achieved and the results attained still fall short of the goals which our venerable council set last year. Consequently, they still fall short of what our peoples aspire to; so much so, that no change worth mentioning has taken place.

Several facts clearly emerge from the generally prevailing situation. They are:

1. There is a tendency to underestimate the danger of these situations in a number of our Arab countries, underestimate the extent of the expected challenges, and underestimate the consequences of the plots and conspiracies that are being hatched against our Arab homeland, in the eastern and western parts. This could be overcome if we armed ourselves with great awareness and deep understanding against the strange phenomena that have emerged in our societies, foremost among which are terrorism and sabotage.

2. There has been a failure to form a joint Arab strategy to combat these phenomena and there has been a readiness to be satisfied with half-hearted condemnation. This is unreasonable and unacceptable, considering what is happening in some Arab countries, including Algeria. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Said To Favor 'Unity' With Jordan, Lebanon

MM0401133595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Sa'id al-Tal, member of the Jordanian Senate and former information minister, revealed yesterday that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad presented to him during their meeting in Damascus last April the idea of establishing a form of unity between Syria and Jordan.

Al-Tal said in his address to the Jordanian Senate yesterday that President al-Asad had asked him to convey a message concerning this proposal to King Husayn, and he had stressed Syria's willingness to enter such unity. He added that President al-Asad approves of the idea of establishing unity among Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon

Dr. al-Tal quoted the Syrian president as saying that opposition to the greater Syria plan in the past was a grave pan-Arab mistake which should be rectified.

'Gulf Sources' Detail Syria-Israel Proposals

JN0301144895 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jan 95 p 14

[Report by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barghuthi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gulf sources have told SAWT AL-SHA'B that Syria is studying evacuating its forces from Beirut at the beginning of the month of Ramadan [February] or on the first day of 'Id al-Fatr [2 or 3 March]. The Gulf sources, who are close to the decision-makers in a Gulf state, said the sudden and urgent tripartite summit hosted by Egyptian President

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Muhammd Husni Mubarak and attended by Saudi King Fahd and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, focused on various aspects of this issue and the measures Syria believes Arabs urgently need to take in order to protect themselves.

The same sources said President al-Asad briefed Mubarak and Fahd on the intent of the pulse-feeling draft agreement proposed by the Israelis during the recent Syrian-Israeli military talks in Washington. The Syrian delegation accepted the idea that the proposal could be studied by the Syrian Government and stressed that this should not be seen as an initial Syrian agreement on the proposal. The proposal is designed to sense the Syrian stand and to present a chance to show good intentions in Lebanon in preparation for implementing something similar in the Golan after narrowing the gaps about Lebanese territory.

According to the Gulf sources, the proposal suggests that Syria will move its forces from Beirut to the Lebanese al-Biqa', as stipulated by the al-Ta'if accord, which was constitutionally endorsed by Lebanon. Israeli forces will withdraw 5 km, one-half of the security strip, in southern Lebanon. Then, Israel will stop its support for the agent militias and help liquidate the commanders of these militias who are not accepted by Syria and Lebanon in preparation for joining the rest of the cadres with the Lebanese Army, in accordance with the desire of the Lebanese Army command, and without interference from the Israeli command.

The Lebanese Army will then be allowed to deploy its forces in the area from which Israel will withdraw in order to remove mines from this area. This will be a joint Lebanese-Israeli effort supervised by a joint committee. Lebanese forces deployed on the disengagement line will prevent attacks by Hizballah against Israeli forces in their new deployment area in the second half of the occupied strip in southern Lebanon.

The same sources said Syria agreed to study the proposal because an investigation of the booby-trapped car explosion in Beirut's southern suburb showed the Mosad was behind this criminal act. The Syrian security apparatuses saw in this an Israeli message that the Mosad has many Lebanese elements and cadres who are still deployed in Beirut. The Israeli message also means the Mosad can carry out terrible large sabotage acts in Beirut in a way that will embarrass the Syrian leadership and the Syrian Army command in Lebanon, in particular. The sources also said that all the Syrian Army, Government, and people will be more embarrassed if the Mosad launches operations against the Syrian forces themselves in Lebanon.

President al-Asad explained these Syrian ideas and concepts to King Fahd and President Mubarak and explained his fears and those of the Syrian military commanders that Israel might set a trap on Lebanese territory so Syria would leave Beirut, and consequently lose all, or most, of the Lebanese card.

The Syrian's primary fear is that following their departure from Beirut the Lebanese opposition will take the opportunity to work against the Syrian military forces stationed in the al-Biqa' and against the 900,000 Syrian civilians working in reconstruction projects in Beirut and Lebanon.

For all this, according to the same sources, President al-Asad asked his two companions at this summit to, first, use their weight to bring pressure to bear on Washington to make it guarantee the sincerity of Israel's intentions toward the proposal, and also asked Cairo to pressure the Israeli Government, through what Egypt enjoys in terms of political, economic, and security pressures, to prevent Israel from setting a trap to Damascus in Lebanon. Secondly, Fahd and Mubarak should use their influence in the Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab Maghreb Union states, or the so-called Arab support states, to foil the attempts of some of their leaders to adopt an open policy toward Israel, and some other leaders' unilateral action of opening liaison offices with Israel.

President al-Asad stressed his fears that the objective of Israel's dealing with these leaders is to implement a Zionist scheme that is being publicized in the United States and the West to redraw the Arab map, as President al-Asad put it.

Based on this, the sources said, President al-Asad stressed the need to work seriously to bring Iraq back to Arab ranks after it has recognized Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, and after it has presented documents about this to the United Nations and the UN Security Council, as the State of Kuwait previously insisted.

Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak told King Fahd that Iraq is now convinced that the Egyptian and Syrian forces' presence in Hafar al- Batin during the Gulf war prevented Turkey from implementing the Zionist scheme of redrawing the Arab map by occupying the two Iraqi cities of Mosul and Karkuk during the anarchy which followed the Gulf war cease-fire and southern Iraq's rebellion against Baghdad.

In this regard, the Syrian and Egyptian presidents informed King Fahd of the secrets divulged by the former Turkish chief of staff, who rejected the orders of the then Turkish President Turgut Ozal to occupy the two cities. The Turkish military official said he rejected these orders out of fear that Damascus and Cairo might get mad, abandon the coalition, and redirect their troops, which were deployed in Hafar al-Batin, to face the Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory.

The Gulf sources concluded their telephone statements to SAWT AL- SHA'B by confirming that President al-Asad reassured King Fahd and President Mubarak about Syria's ability to demonstrate patience and composure in the face of Israeli tactics and temptations, or what appear to be temptations. Nonetheless, the Syrian president expressed optimism that before the onset of

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the summer of 1995, there will be a Syrian-Israeli agreement, and a Lebanese-Israeli agreement to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, a peace that will not only ensure the security and stability of the Israeli people and government, which has been promoted in the West since the inception of the State of Israel, but also the security and stability of all the peoples of the region, as stated by U.S. President Bill Clinton in the statement he made to reporters during his recent visit to Damascus, which came in the aftermath of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement. This is the key to the desired peace that can be accepted by all countries in the region and the world at large.

Palestinian Affairs

Investigation Into Incident at Erez Continues

Initial Report Says 'Ambush' Planned

TA0501092895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The initial investigation into Monday's [2 January] incident at the Erez checkpoint by the joint Israeli-Palestinian Committee shows that Palestinian policemen planned an ambush and opened fire on Israeli soldiers. This is according to Israeli security sources following a meeting last night of the joint committee. The security sources said after opening fire the attackers ran away to a Palestinian police post. The Israeli soldiers returned fire and demanded that the attackers identify themselves. One of the attackers came out with his hands raised and was turned over to the joint liaison committee. Three other Palestinians continued to fire and were killed in the incident.

PLO Official Rejects 'Ambush' Finding

TA0501100695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, a member of the Fatah Supreme Committee in the Gaza Strip, by Uri Paz and Mikhal Gazit; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gazit] As someone who knows the situation in Gaza, where Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in fact controls the street, I believe you were not surprised by the findings of the investigation into the Erez incident. Does it show that Hamas has infiltrated the Palestinian police ranks and perhaps operates openly inside it?

['Abd-al-Raziq] I do not agree that Hamas controls the street, that is not the situation. It is possible that Israeli opposition is causing the strengthening of Hamas and Hamas ideas.

[Gazit] But what is happening within the Palestinian police?

['Abd-al-Raziq] When you talk about infiltration by Hamas into the Palestinian police, that did happen in Jerusalem where one of the policeman was recruited by Hamas. That can happen, but it is not a common phenomenon.

[Gazit] Nevertheless, the dead policemen came from Libya whose extremist political positions are known.

['Abd-al-Raziq] I think that is a great mistake. Those people from Libya came from units that defend the border, they are situated in their fixed positions. There might have been shooting from their direction, but it is not feasible that they carried out an ambush in their own homeland and yet sustained casualties themselves. If they were planning an ambush, people would have been killed in their ambush.

[Gazit] But we cannot argue with the facts. Cartridges of Kalashnikovs, which were apparently used by the dead policemen, were found at the site.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Probably. There were shots fired at the Israeli border, but nobody can prove that it came from the Palestinian policemen. It is not the first time that an incident has involved shooting at IDF soldiers from the Palestinian side.

[Paz] In other words, you are not prepared to admit or accept the findings of this investigation and you are in fact not admitting guilt. You say they were not Palestinian policemen.

['Abd-al-Raziq] I say they were not Palestinian policemen and I am not prepared to accept that Palestinian policemen ambushed IDF soldiers.

[Paz] In the current tense situation, do you have a formula for how to calm tempers?

['Abd-al-Raziq] Brave leaders are needed to digest the fact that there is peace with the Palestinians, and not to give the Palestinian opposition the power to veto progress in the peace process through various actions. We cannot act that way, we have to say: Folks, we are two nations, we have to live in two separate states, dismantle the settlements, and make real peace.

[Gazit] But does the Palestinian Authority plan to draw the right conclusions, and not merely throw the ball into the Israeli court, by increasing supervision of Hamas and Palestinian police, and perhaps cleansing its ranks?

['Abd-al-Raziq] The ball is in the Israeli court whether we like it or not. We, in the Gaza Strip, live in a large prison, no more, no less. The Israelis are responsible for that situation and because of it, the ball is in the Israeli court.

Sha'th: Death of Policemen 'Murder'

TA0501101795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th said the deaths of the three Palestinian policemen at the Erez junction

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are a crime and a preplanned act of murder. Our correspondent reports that Sha'th told a Gaza news conference that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers should have telephoned the joint liaison committee, which is located some 300 meters from the site of the incident, for the shooting to end. The shooting lasted 20 minutes, Sha'th said, and it could have been stopped within one minute. Yasir 'Arafat and I, Sha'th said, are waiting for the outcome of the investigation, and we have so far not received anything. If it was a Palestinian who opened fire, we will bring him to trial, he said.

Security sources said this morning that according to a debriefing by the joint committee, the Palestinian policemen set up an ambush for the IDF soldiers near the Erez junction.

Police Colonel: 4 More Wounded in Erez Incidents

TA0401122895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A colonel in the Palestinian police told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that in two incidents near the Erez checkpoint at noon today, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers opened fire, wounding two Palestinian civilians and two policemen.

'Umar Ashur, a member of the joint liaison committee and an officer in the Palestinian police, claims that the Israeli border policemen opened fire without any provocation. According to him, today's incident and the incident two days ago, which resulted in the death of three Palestinian policemen, constitute a political message from Israel to the Palestinian Authority. Ashur denied that Palestinian policemen opened fire in the course of the incident. This is reported by our correspondent Dani Zaqen.

Yusuf Calls For International Observers at Erez

TA0501094795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the autonomy police said that the Palestinian Authority has officially called on Israel to agree to the deployment of international observers at the Erez roadblock following the recent incidents between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Palestinian policemen. The request was made at the joint defense committee.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that General Nasr Yusuf denies the IDF's charge that a Palestinian policeman in fatigues is the one who fired at IDF soldiers north of Bayt Hanun in the Gaza Strip last night. Gen. Yusuf claims that IDF soldiers were the ones to open fire for no reason from three positions, injuring two Palestinian passersby. He reiterated that the Palestinian police detained an IDF undercover force and held them up three hours.

Hamas Vows To Avenge Policemen Killed by Israelis

NC0401215395 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Jan 4 (AFP)—The hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) vowed Wednesday [4 January] to avenge the killing of three Palestinian policemen by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, in a statement released here.

Hamas, which is opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords, said it regarded the three as "our own people" and pledged that "Hamas militants will not let this crime go unpunished."

The clash between Palestinian police and the Israeli army late Monday was "part of the wave of terrorism and repression inflicted by the occupation forces on our militants and the Palestinian people," Hamas said.

It called on PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule Authority to suspend negotiations with Israel which "will only lead to excessive concessions."

The three policemen were killed after Israeli troops entered the autonomous Gaza Strip in response to shots fired in their direction, according to Israeli officials.

But the Palestinian police said the army attacked two Palestinian border posts near the Erez crossing point for no reason.

West Bank Fatah Urges PLO To Suspend Peace Talks

TA0401180595 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 2 Jan 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Fatah has called on the PLO leadership to suspend the current talks with Israel for implementing the second part of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. This is in order to pressure Israel to announce an immediate and total halt to Israeli settlement activity in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In a statement, Fatah called on the PLO leadership to link "the continuation of the talks to the Israeli Government's readiness to adhere to the timetable stipulated by the Oslo agreement; a practical halt to settlement activity and the confiscation of Palestinian land in the West Bank; the lifting of the siege on East Jerusalem; and the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails."

The West Bank Fatah Higher Committee also called on the PLO leadership to establish a Palestinian reference point for the talks with Israel. In a statement which it distributed following a meeting that it held in the West Bank under the chairmanship of its secretary, Marwan al-Barghuthi, the committee called for "setting up a clear and authorized reference point for the negotiations about the second stage of the Oslo agreement." It also stressed the need "to enhance the Palestinian negotiating

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delegation with national capabilities, thus ensuring that our people will not be embroiled in agreements that restrain their National Authority and their future from moving toward national independence." [passage omitted]

Islamic Movement Calls On PA To Stop Talks

TA0401155095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Jan 95 pp 1, 23

[Report by Rashid Hilal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah—Shaykh Husayn Abu-Kuwayk and Hasan Yusuf, who are close to the Islamic Movement in the West Bank, have stressed that what is happening in al-Khidr, Dayr Qiddis, and the rest of our towns and villages is just a continuation of the old-new settlement policy which the Israeli authorities are pursuing.

Shaykh Abu-Kuwayk and Shaykh Yusuf said that this policy seeks to swallow more Palestinian land and impose a fait accompli. They called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to immediately stop the talks because the Israeli side is using the talks to bestow legitimacy on all its practices—the expropriation of land and the Palestinian people's rights.

They noted that what happened confirms that the Oslo-Washington agreement was not the means to stop the annexation policy that is continuing in many places in the Palestinian territories. [passage omitted]

Fatah Official Denies Splits Within Movement

TA0401180795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Jan 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—'Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that there is no propensity at all for holding the committee's meetings in Amman. He noted the existence of a previous decision to continue holding the monthly meetings in Tunis, the official headquarters of the Palestinian leadership.

Zaki denied that there has been any proposal by any party in Fatah to transfer the Palestine National Council [PNC] to the autonomous areas. He said there is agreement on three issues, namely, that the PLO and the Executive Committee are the reference point of the Palestinian National Authority, that Amman serve as the PNC headquarters, that the Fatah cadres continue their activities in Tunis where the Central Committee meetings will be convened.

In answer to a question about the existence of splits within Fatah, Zaki said we have overcome the cloud inside and outside and there are no differences whatsoever at present. He added that whatever is being said to the contrary lacks accuracy and objectivity.

He said: There is no crisis in Fatah, but there are different viewpoints regarding the issues on the agenda inside the one home. The majority's opinion is the one that is adhered to.

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Algeria

Interior Minister on GIA Threats to Diplomats

LD0401200395 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] France has announced that it has received a letter in the form of an ultimatum from the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. Like Bonn, London, and Washington, Paris must, according to the Algerian fundamentalists, repatriate all its diplomats by 7 January, otherwise the GIA, as per the norm, threatens to kill those it calls the infidels. Jerome Bastion:

[Bastion] Yes, to begin with, Paris denied having received a threat of this kind—the same kind received by the German, British, and U.S. diplomats. In fact this letter, the existence of which has now been admitted, confirms the ultimatum issued by the GIA after its operation involving the Air France Airbus, and confirms, should there be such a need, that France remains the main subject of concern of the Algerian Islamists. [passage omitted]

In the current context, following the emotions aroused by the hijacking of the plane, the new threats do not fail to cause concern. The Germans are talking about the possibility of grouping together the various countries' diplomatic staff at the French premises—it is true that the French is the largest, and that they hold the largest number of staff. This is perhaps part of the extra measures which are to be adopted, as announced today by Alain Juppe. In any case it appears to be the final possibility before quite simply closing the embassies in Algeria.

Thank you, Jerome Bastion. Straight away we have the reaction of the Algerian interior minister after these new threats made by the GIA against Germany, Britain, the United States, and France. Naturally he condemns the threats:

[Begin Cherif recording] It is an act of manipulation and an effort to make a splash. Algeria guarantees the security of all who are in the country and all who work there, and it is known for its hospitality and for its determination. It is a constant threat. It is dangerous, above all since it is used in the name of Islam by bogus Muslims, by opportunists using religion [des religieux de circonstance] to block the development of the Arab countries, including Algeria, and I can tell you that no one can bring my country to its knees. [end recording]

That was Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, speaking to Rida Boughezi. The Algerian interior minister is in Tunis to meet his Arab counterparts.

Doubts Persist Over Resumption of Rome Dialogue

MM0401161795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "'Salvation Army' Committed to 'War' Against France, But It Will Not Move Battle There"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, San Francisco, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Salvation Army announced yesterday its adherence to the "declaration of war" on France, but it does not intend to move the battle to its territory. The "Pledge Battalion" said in a statement of which AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy that France is a party to the ongoing conflict in Algeria. The Salvation Army's announcement coincided with a statement by Algerian sources yesterday, expecting a second seminar for dialogue among the Algerian parties to be held in Rome within the next few days. However, Algerian party officials have confirmed that a date for the seminar has not yet been set and that there are doubts whether it is actually going to be held and whether it will be attended by the same parties as attended the "Rome Seminar-1."

The talk of a "Rome Seminar-2" coincides with the assertion by Shaykh 'Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement in Algeria, that the contacts being made among Algerian parties to resolve the crisis "have made relative progress. But it is not the right time to talk about it now." The shaykh, who was speaking to AL-HAYAH in London, did not say whether these contacts are being conducted directly between the Islamic Front and the authorities or through intermediaries. As is known, the regime, represented by some generals close to President Liamine Zeroual, made contact with Islamic Front leaders Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj at their residence in Djinan El Mufti following the announcement of the dialogue's failure on 31 October. This is the first time that there has been talk in Algeria of "progress" in the contacts being made to resolve the crisis. Djaballah stressed in this connection that there is still hope. However, he said, "the crisis is very complicated, but the hope of surmounting it is still there. We are among those who are making great efforts to iron out the psychological and legal difficulties obstructing the resumption of a comprehensive and responsible national dialogue." [passage omitted]

FLN, FIS Hold 'Top-Level Talks'

LD0401163695 Paris Radio France International in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] For the first time since the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was outlawed in Algeria, the FIS and the former single ruling party, the FLN [National Liberation Front] have held top-level talks. The FLN delegates had talks with Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, top FIS leaders, who were released from jail into house arrest in Algeria late last year. It's not clear where the meeting took place.

The news comes as the French government meets in Paris to discuss the Algerian civil war. The FIS was banned in March 1992 after the army intervened in January that year to call off the second round of elections, which the FIS was poised to win. [passage omitted]

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Comprehensive Solution Sought

LD0401202895 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the National Liberation Front, the FLN, has announced that four of its leaders have just met Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. It was a matter of examining with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders, I quote: the possibility of combining efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the crisis. Let me remind you that the FLN has stated its intention of organizing a national congress of reconciliation and concord in the near future. It also announced that preliminary talks would be held beginning this week. The meeting with Madani and Belhadj appears to fall within this framework, of course.

More Meetings To Come

LD0501071995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the political bureau of the Front de Liberation Nationale [FLN], including the party's secretary-general, and Messrs Abdelaziz Belkhadem, Ali Benflis, and Hocine Sassi, visited the two leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. According to a statement issued yesterday by the FLN, the discussions in the meeting dealt with the means to unite the efforts to find an exist from the crisis. The statement concluded by saying that the political bureau would continue its contacts with the political forces, organizations, and national figures within the same framework and for the same purpose over the following days.

Moroccan Foreign Secretary Visits Algiers

Makes Arrival Statement

LD0401124995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Taieb al-Fassi Fihri arrived in Algiers today. Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for Maghreban affairs and official spokesman of the government, was at his reception on the tarmac. On arrival at Houari Boumedienne International Airport, Taieb al-Fassi Fihri made the following statement:

[Begin Fihri recording] I am very happy to be here in sisterly Algeria within the framework of a working visit. We hope to come out with recommendations and decisions, God willing, stemming from directives of the two governments aimed at developing bilateral relations in the various spheres—economic, social, and diplomatic. God willing, we hope that the two days we are staying in Algeria will result in those recommendations which we will put forward to the two governments. [end recording]

Meets With Officials

LD0401211295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The Algerian-Moroccan political talks started at El Djazair Hotel in Algiers today under the co-chairmanship of Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state in charge of cooperation and Maghreban affairs, and Taieb al-Fassi Fihri, the Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

During this session, the two sides decided agreed to set up three working groups to examine issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation between the two countries, including consular and economic matters in general. The groups will also examine cooperation in infrastructure projects, the development of border areas, and human resources.

Today's session is the fruit of a series of meetings at the highest level held between Algerian and Moroccan officials on the sidelines of last month's 7th summit of the Islamic Conference Organization in Casablanca.

At the start of the meeting, Attaf clarified a number of items included on the agenda. On these items, Attaf had this to say to Zenoub Aoun Ababda:

[Begin Attaf recording] We will assess the state of our bilateral relations and identify the points of obstruction in these relations. We will also examine ways to develop and bolster these relations to meet our mutual aspirations.

We are meeting today in the hope that our proceedings will be crowned with results that will meet the aspirations of our two fraternal peoples, strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, and set up joint ventures in order to expand the basis of economic cooperation and integration in the interest of our two fraternal peoples.

The deep-seated roots binding our two peoples together and the common interest they share require further efforts to develop and strengthen the relations of cooperation and to set up joint ventures. This can be achieved with new moves in the framework of our common march and will help preserve the gains made thanks to our cooperation. [end recording]

[Announcer] Fihri arrived in Algiers earlier today in the company of a delegation made up of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, consular and social affairs [as heard], the Interior Ministry, the National Education Ministry, the Trade and Industry Ministry, the Ministry of Handicrafts, the Treasury, and the Finance Ministry.

Security Forces Eliminate 17 'Terrorists'

LD0401205495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services today announced that their forces eliminated 17 "terrorists" in the provinces of Mostaganem, Tlemcen, Relizane, Oran, and the capital Algiers.

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The security forces also recovered a quantity of weapons during these operations.

Minister on Prices, Trade, Restructuring

LD0401133895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1102 GMT broadcasts a 58-minute recorded interview with Commerce Minister Sassi Aziza in the weekly "Transformations" program. Commenting on recent price rises, the minister notes that only 15 percent of goods in Algeria are subject to direct or indirect state control. He says the rises are in the context of the transition to a market economy, noting that they were affected by the amount the state subsidized some consumer goods.

On monitoring the prices of essential goods, he confirms that the state is monitoring the prices. However, he stresses that prices are subject to supply and demand. On the competition bill currently being debated by the Transitional National Council, the minister says this bill is designed to provide a legal framework for the competition that already exists. The law will deal with prices and quality, he adds.

On foreign trade and the availability of hard currency for imports, the commerce minister emphasizes that imports and exports are also subject to supply and demand and market forces. The minister says that the process of freeing foreign trade from control started at the beginning of last year, and he notes that fiscal provisions exist to protect national products. On the competitiveness of Algerian against imported products, Aziza says that competitiveness will lie in the cost, quality, and variety.

The minister says that Algeria's membership of GATT and the World Trade Center are compatible with its wish to protect national products. He adds that Algeria is offering good incentives to foreign investors.

On the pace of restructuring public enterprises, Aziza notes that the enterprises are functioning and are being modernized, adding that some of the enterprises have been offered to the private sector. On the possible rise in the cost of publishing as a result of more expensive paper and other materials, the minister says that publishing concerns are also affected by market forces. The industry minister has not ordered an increase in the cost of publishing material, but he is not preventing fluctuations caused by market forces. Aziza does not reply to a question on an expected rise in the price of newspapers in mid-January.

On agreements signed with the IMF, Aziza says that all the conditions stipulated by the IMF have been met, and the government is convinced that the agreements are right for Algeria.

Egypt

Writer Sees U.S. Campaign Against Egypt

NC0401220395 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 94 p 4

[From the "Weekend" column by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "The Price of U.S. Aid"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite all the pacifying and reassuring statements in Cairo and Washington about Egyptian-U.S. relations, the campaign against Egypt in U.S. newspapers and magazines has neither stopped nor been muted. It is a ferocious campaign, whose catchword is that Egypt must pay the price of the aid it is getting from America with its policy and sovereignty.

It is not just a press or media campaign. Behind the U.S. media there are formidable economic and political blocs that influence the U.S. decisionmaking at both the domestic and foreign levels.

This anti-Egyptian campaign is searching old files for some kind of allegation to level against Egypt and win over U.S. public opinion.

Egypt's relations with Libya has become the bone of contention, according to the architects and instruments of that campaign. The latest in this campaign was published this week by U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, a magazine closely linked to the State Department.

The magazine notes that a year has passed since former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya disappeared from Safir Hotel in al-Dukki on 10 December 1993, where he was taking part in a conference on human rights in Cairo.

The magazine openly accuses Libyan intelligence of kidnapping al- Kikhya, for being al-Qadhdhafi's opponent. But it adds that this was facilitated by the Egyptian security agencies.

The new development in that connection is that some U.S. circles have started to use al-Kikhya's wife, who has American citizenship, for the campaign against Egypt. Were Baha' al-Kikhya, the wife's name, a Libyan national, America would not have paid her any attention.

They invited her to visit Congress, where a reception was arranged with the families of the victims of the Lockerbie incident, which the United States blames on Libya.

They started to harp on the tune of Egypt's support for Libya and al-Qadhdhafi who, according to them, were the major forces behind the Lockerbie incident and al-Kikhya's disappearance.

They began to stress the need for Congress to launch an investigation into the matter, for how could the United states pay $2.3 billions in assistance to a state (Egypt) that backs its only enemy (al-Qadhdhafi)? (The United

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States is certainly glad that discord continues between Egypt and Sudan. It is pained that this is not the case with Egyptian-Libyan relations so that it could dictate its will after detaching Egypt from its Arab neighbors)

Ferocious as it is, the campaign is not surprising. [Late Egyptian President Jamal] 'Abd-al-Nasir, God rest his soul, used to say: The day the Western press and radios fail to attack me, I will feel that I have done something wrong.

This might not be the case exactly. But what is going on now confirms that America is wrong to think that any Egyptian—and not just President Mubarak—would agree to let his country pay the price for U.S. aid with its policy or sovereignty.

After the tripartite summit between Mubarak, Fahd, and al-Asad, I expect the campaign against Egypt to get fiercer.

Cabinet Views Results of Alexandria Summit

NC0401164095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today, the Council of Ministers held an extensive discussion on issues raised by President Husni Mubarak in an expanded ministerial meeting yesterday. The Council made a number of decisions to implement what was agreed upon in yesterday's meeting.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said the Council of Ministers also reviewed Egypt's foreign policy in light of a report presented by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the results of the successful tripartite summit, which was convened by President Husni Mubarak. The summit was held in Alexandria last week, and it brought together President Mubarak, the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Sharif said that, after discussing this report, the Council of Ministers stressed that the Alexandria summit aimed at clarifying and promoting Arab relations and supporting common Arab action. The summit also sought to boost economic cooperation, help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and encourage Iraq to proceed with the implementation of Arab and international legitimacy. The Council of Ministers also stressed that the Alexandria summit seeks to support Arab action apart from the formation of any axes.

Mr. al-Sharif said the foreign minister's report also included the results of the talks President Mubarak held with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The talks aimed at advancing the Arab-Israeli talks and supporting the Palestinian National Authority. The report also discussed the results of the talks President Mubarak held with the kings and presidents of the Islamic countries during the Islamic summit in Casablanca, especially concerning the strengthening of bilateral relations between Egypt and the Islamic countries in the political, economic, commercial, and technical areas. [passage omitted]

Israeli Analyses of Tripartite Summit Faulted

NC0401152595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Israeli Violence in the Occupied Territories Is the Real Obstacle to Peace and Security for All Peoples of the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Some Israeli media slipped into a mistaken analysis when they portrayed the recent tripartite summit in Alexandria as an axis being established by Egypt to confront new developments in the region, especially after the relative success scored by the Israeli delegations at the economic summit in Casablanca. But President Mubarak, answering a question by an Israeli reporter, explained that summit meetings are usually preceded by months of preparations, contacts, and consultations. They can never be linked to developments here or there; otherwise, summits would have to be held every week to follow the continuous developments in the Arab arena.

Moreover, falling into such erroneous analyses results from the regrettable events in the self-rule regions, events stemming from attempts to expand Israeli settlements at the expense of the Palestinians and the raid against a Palestinian police center, in which a number of policemen were killed. This has undoubtedly made political analysts think that the Alexandria summit was convened to confront these malicious practices by a group of Israelis who reject peace and peaceful coexistence on the pretext that this threatens Israel's security.

We reiterate once again that the Alexandria summit, as announced by President Mubarak, sought to clear the Arab air and advance the peace process on the tracks that were encountering deadlocks thanks to obstacles that logically cannot be blamed on those whose territory is still under Israeli occupation.

From the very beginning of the peace process, we knew that this was going to be a difficult and arduous road requiring unlimited patience, especially since the Israeli side, as pointed out by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, wants everything without offering anything.

Constant meetings between the Arab leaders who can participate effectively in the peace process are indispensable for consultations and agreement on the upcoming steps, especially since the Arab people are ready for constructive cooperation in all fields after stability and a just peace are achieved.

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Region's Nuclear Energy Prospects Reviewed

NC0401110595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says a new nuclear phase is evolving in the Middle East in which the peaceful uses of nuclear energy play an important role in solving some of the region's problems, mainly those of energy and water.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that Jordan has decided to activate its peaceful nuclear program, which began in 1986, by officially declaring that it is considering the purchase of an experimental nuclear reactor in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The paper notes that Syria also had announced its intention to turn to peaceful nuclear energy and that Egypt has a peaceful nuclear program that might contribute to tackling energy and technology issues there.

The paper also refers to Israel's intention to devise plans to build or purchase a nuclear reactor to be installed in Negev to consolidate its peaceful use of nuclear energy after concentrating 95 percent of its nuclear activity since 1948 on military purposes.

The paper points out that this trend will contribute to shifting the technological advancement to another level. It also notes that Egypt's ideas on freeing the region from weapons of mass destruction will also contribute to creating a suitable ground to support this approach. Thus, the paper adds, the region will shift its policy on the destructive uses of nuclear energy to other, more important applications.

Minister Denies Tourism Ban in Desert Regions

NC3112173694 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec 31 (AFP)—Tourism Minister Mahmud al-Biltaji denied Saturday [31 December] reports that tourist safaris had been banned from Egypt's desert regions for five years.

"Contrary to what was wrongly published by some newspapers no decision was taken to prohibit safari tourism activities in the Egyptian deserts," he said in a statement.

Tour operators were continuing to promote this type of tourism, he added.

Tuesday editions of the daily AL-AHRAM reported that the Organisation for Environmental Protection had made the decision to protect endangered wildlife and that it had been announced to Arab embassies in Cairo and Egyptian embassies in other Arab countries. It was due to come into effect on Monday.

But al-Biltaji said no organisation except the Tourism Ministry could decide on a tourist issue.

Officially hunting is banned in the Sinai desert and Egypt's western desert region near the border with Libya, but environmentalists say it still goes on and several species are under threat of extinction.

Opposition Parties Condemn Labor Leader's Arrest

NC0401214095 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A spokesman for the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG] has said that the party was surprised at the arrest of 'Adil Husayn, a journalist and secretary general of the Labor Party. The spokesman noted that the arrest came just a few days before the start of the election year, which requires the removal of all restrictions on the political parties' freedom of movement, action, and contact with the masses.

The spokesman said: The arrest and the charges were made about two months after the incident in question. Where have the security and investigation services been during this whole period? And why now?

The spokesman stressed that the NPUG respects our fair judiciary and all investigating agencies. He hoped that these measures will always serve democracy, freedom of the press and parties, and individual rights. He added: The party insists on the need to release 'Adil Husayn because there is no need for precautionary detention; the case should take its natural course.

The Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, the Human Rights Organization, and the Liberal Party have also issued statements condemning the arrest of 'Adil Husayn and warning against attempts to block opposing views. [passage omitted]

Illegal Organization Member Executed

NC3112132494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Defendant Hamadah Muhammad Lutfi 'Abd-al-Baqi, a member of the so-called "Professor's Organization" [Tanzim al-Ustadh] was executed today.

He was a fugitive when a military court passed a death sentence on him in connection with case No. 2/1994. He was caught in October 1994 and informed of his conviction. His appeal for a review of the sentence was turned down.

His conviction was based on charges of joining an illegal organization seeking to change the government by force, acts of terror, criminal conspiracy to carry out premeditated murders, and possession of unlicensed arms and ammunition.

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Libya

Chechen Delegation Meets, Briefs al-Qadhdhafi

LD0401221895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As leader of the popular Islamic leadership and within his efforts to halt the fighting in Chechnya, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a Chechen delegation, which is in Libya to seek the immediate intervention of the popular Islamic leadership in order to avert a catastrophe among the Muslim Chechen people.

Dr. Yusuf Beltour, head of the Chechen delegation, briefed the brother leader of the revolution, the leader of the world popular Islamic leadership, on the Chechen crisis situation. The head of the delegation also conveyed to the brother leader the appreciation of the Muslim people of Chechnya for the sincere efforts of the brother leader of the revolution, the leader of the world popualr Islamic leadership, to keep the situation from deteriorating. [passage omitted]

Dr. Yusuf Beltour made a statement to JANA, in which he said:

[Begin Beltour recording] We were honored by meeting with the leader of the revolution. We thanked him for his special and distinguished attention to the struggle of his Chechen brothers in the Muslim Caucasus. We have come to appeal to the leader of the revolution, the leader of the popular Islamic leadership, to bring pressure to bear on President Yeltsin and on Russia to find a solution that will put an end to this unjustified aggression on the Muslims in the Republic of Chechnya.

Muslims are being subjected to aggression, and as a result of this aggression to indiscriminate bombardments of civilian quarters. Massacres have taken place in which old people, women, and children have been murdered. We have asked the brother leader to exert his efforts to stop the Russian aggression against the muslims in the Caucasus, which damages Russia's relations with the Islamic world.

We told the brother leader that in our old and recent history, we have been exposed to Russian aggression and to the displacement of our entire people from its land, exactly as the fascist Italians had done to the Libyan people at the beginning of this century. We fear that the current Russian aggression against the Muslims of Chechnya will lead to our murder and the displacement of our people, and their expulsion far from their land.

We have affirmed to the brother leader the steadfastness of our resistance to any aggression, and the preparedness of our people to die in their jihad in defense of their land, honor, and religion. We, as Chechen President General Dzhokar Dudayev has said, have fought the Russians for 200 years, and we are now more prepared and more capable to fight them for another 200 years.

We have asked the brother leader of the popular Islamic leadership to continue to agitate the Muslim world to assist the Chechen people and to explain the dimensions of this unjust aggression on the Muslims in the Caucasus.

We have offered our thanks on behalf of all Chechens in the world to the brother leader of the revolution for his initiatives in standing by our Muslim people, and by drawing the attention of the world, the Muslims, and also the Russians to the reality of the tragedy unfolding in the Republic of Chechnya, and its grave consequences for everyone, for his great appreciation of the struggle of the Chechen people in the defense of their freedom, and their right to a dignified life.

Our people appreciate the commendable efforts of the leader of the revolution, the leader of the world popular Islamic leadership, for his sensitive Islamic feeling and his pure Arab pride, the various efforts made at all popular and official levels. We appreciate his contacts with the leaders of the Islamic states, such as Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Turkey, and others, urging everyone to break this worldwide crusader information blackout on the aggression on Muslims in our country, and urging all to respond to the call of Islam; for every Muslim to help his brother Muslim.

While we highly appreciate the brother leader's initiatives, we appealed to him to contact all Muslim peoples and states and all humanitarian organizations to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance, to help those affected by this cruel war imposed on our people, and to shelter the orphan children, old people, women, and the infirm displaced by this war.

By meeting the brother leader, our determination to and faith in defending our religion and our country have grown. We salute his excellency and the Libyan people in the name of the Chechen people, for all the stands which will be remembered by all Chechens and all Muslims of the Caucasus with great pride. [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Cairo in Jan

MM0301142095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Egypt Next Month"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—AL-HAYAH has learned that contacts are being made between Cairo and Tripoli to agree on a date for Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Cairo, which is expected to take place next month.

Libyan diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that al-Qadhdhafi will visit Cairo soon to hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which "will deal with the results of the contacts Egypt is making with the United States, Britain, and France to secure a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis."

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The sources said that Libya "will not be able to offer more than it has offered to resolve this issue, which has caused great harm to the Libyan people and neighboring states."

The sources pointed out that Libya "believes that the [Arab] League can be developed by establishing a council for the Arab presidents and kings along the lines of the Arab foreign ministers council, and that Arab summit meetings should be held regularly and whenever necessary."

Morocco

King Meets Opposition Leaders, ICO Head

LD0401190495 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the royal residence in Bouzznika this afternoon, His Majesty King Hassan II met Mahjoubi Aherdane, the secretary general of the National Popular Movement, who was accompanied by some members of the movement's executive committee and its representatives in various provinces of the kingdom. These were Allel Boulouise, Mohamed Benzaroual, Khalla Saidi, Bouazza Yitken, Hassan El Maouni, Chakib Bourkia, Mohamed El Fahidi, Mokhtar Najah, Adioubihi Ait Rahou, Mohamed Lamine Ould Harmatallah, Mohamed El Fadili, and Mohamed El Khattabi.

The honorable monarch also met Mohamed Arsalane El Jedidi, the secretary general of the Democratic National Party, who was accompanied by several members of the party's political bureau. These were Abdellah El Kadiri, Abdelkader El Raissi, Milouda Hazib, Tahar Chakir, Lamine Benomar, Ahmed Alami, Abdelaziz Yacoubi, Mohamed Rachedi, and Akil Ouazzani Mohamed Said.

Afterward, his majesty met Dr. Hamed Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. This meeting was attended by the king's advisers, Ahmed Reda Guedira, Driss Slaoui, and Abdelhadi Boutaleb.

Changes in Fuel Prices Announced

LD0101223695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New prices of petroleum products, particularly gasoline and diesel, will come into effect as from today, according to a Ministry of Energy and Mines' statement.

[Unidentified correspondent] The maximum retail prices of gasoline and diesel have been set as follows:

Super gasoline - 7.41 dirham per liter; a rise of 6.46 percent.
Ordinary gasoline - 7.15 dirham per liter; a rise of 6.72 percent.
Diesel - 4.23 dirham per liter; a rise of 6.55 percent.

There has not been any change in the price of oil used for lights [kerosene]. The price remains 3.58 dirham per liter. The same applies to butane gas; the price of a 12-kg-bottle remains 35.50 dirham and the price of a three-kilogram-bottle remains 9.15 dirham.

The price of industrial fuel has been set at 1,685.64 dirham per tonne - a reduction of 10.12 percent.

Nothing should be added to these basic prices except for the cost of transportation from the centers of production or import to outlets. As an incentive to distributors to get the products regularly and in the most favorable conditions to every part of the country, the difference will be calculated on the basis of the real cost of transportation. [passage omitted]

The prices of products for special use such as propane, engine oil, tar, paraffin have been floated and will no longer be capped.

The paraffin used in the wax industry will also be exempt from duty imposed on consumer goods. As a result, its price has fallen by about 14 percent.

Two Cities Still in 'Colonial Situation'

LD3112125094 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 31 Dec 94

Rabat, Dec. 31 (MAP)—The adoption of the autonomy status of Sebta and Mellilia, two Moroccan northern cities still under Spanish rule, does not change the colonial situation in the two cities, Moroccan 'ALMAGHRIB' daily Saturday [31 December] said.

The daily criticized the attitude of the ruling Spanish Labor Party for having maintaining ambiguity on the question of the two cities. The ruling Labor Party seeks to disguise the colonial occupation of the cities through a so-called autonomy status, said the daily noting that everybody knows the geographical position of Sebta and Mellilia and their history.

For Morocco, this autonomy status is void and will not change the obsolete colonial occupation status, the daily said, adding that it is this colonial status which should be changed through negotiations with Morocco.

Sudan

Omdurman Radio Reports Sudanair Hijacking

EA0401143595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Fokker aircraft belonging to Sudanair was hijacked this morning as it was taking off from Khartoum airport on an internal flight to the town of Marawi with 36 passengers on board. The hijack was carried out by a man called Muhammad Jubarah Muhammad, born in 1968, and his wife. They asked the pilot to fly to Cairo. However, the aircraft's captain told them that he did not have enough fuel to complete the

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flight to Cairo. The aircraft arrived at Port Sudan airport. The two hijackers allowed all the passengers and the crew to leave the aircraft.

This afternoon a delegation consisting of Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of the presidency of the Republic; Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, the minister of the presidency for the Council of Ministers; and Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, left for Port Sudan to follow up the situation. Mr. Sabdarat said that the hijacking operation would end within hours.

Hijackers Arrested by Special Forces

AB0401153895 Paris AFP in English 1503 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Jan 4 (AFP)—Sudanese special forces captured an Army corporal who hijacked an internal flight with his wife on Wednesday [4 January] but freed all the passengers and crew after the plane was diverted to Port Sudan.

The hijacker, named as Mohamed Jubara Mohamed, said he had wanted to take his wife to the Egyptian capital Cairo for personal reasons, but was unable to afford the fare, the SUNA news agency reported.

The Sudan Airways plane had just taken off from Khartoum on a regular flight to the northern town of Merawi, with 36 passengers and crew aboard, when the couple ordered the pilot to go to Cairo.

But the pilot convinced them he did not have enough fuel and the Fokker aircraft landed in Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast of eastern Sudan, where the hijackers released the passengers and the crew but remained on the plane.

The national news agency did not say what happened to the wife nor whether the pair was armed. The man had earlier threatened to commit suicide if an attempt was made to capture him.

Several government ministers went to Port Sudan to monitor negotiations with the man, who came from Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, according to the news agency.

An Egyptian court on Sunday sentenced a Sudanese to 15 years of hard labour for hijacking a Sudan Airways plane with 93 passengers flying from Khartoum to Dongola in northern Sudan on April 6.

Adel Mahjub, 26, had forced the pilot at gunpoint to fly to Egypt, where the authorities refused permission to land in Cairo but allowed the aircraft to touch down in the southern town of Luxor. The hijacker gave himself up there.

Mahjub said the political and economic situation in Sudan drove him to hijack the plane. Egypt authorities turned down his request for political asylum as well as an extradition request from Sudan.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since General 'Umar al-Bashir seized power in a military coup in Khartoum in 1989, to form a junta backed by Islamic fundamentalists.

Khartoum and Cairo trade accusations of harbouring each other's opposition groups.

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Bahrain

Group Reports Arrest Figures, Government Abuses

NC0401164895 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 4 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities arrested 2,370 people during last month's riots and many were suffering from harsh conditions in jail, a London-based support group said Wednesday [4 January].

The Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain said in a statement received in Cyprus that women, children, elderly and handicapped people were among those imprisoned without charge or trial.

"There is no place for the prisoners even to sit on the ground" because the prisons are full, and "most of the prisoners are forced to stand all day," the group said.

"Tens of prisoners are (subjected to) brutal torture" by the security forces, the committee said, adding that relatives and lawyers were prevented from visiting the detainees.

Arab diplomats also told AFP Wednesday that more than 2,000 people had been arrested following what they described as indiscriminate roundups in Shiite Moslem communities in the Arab Gulf island state.

Sometimes security forces arrested children to force their parents to turn themselves in, they said.

"In Sitra, more than 30 arrests were made in one night. Even mentally retarded people were detained then released," a diplomat said, requesting anonymity.

"To punish protestors who had destroyed municipal vehicles during the riots, household garbage was not removed for more than two weeks," he said.

"Some people dared to remove the garbage themselves for fear of epidemics and were beaten by the security forces," he said, adding that garbage removal had only resumed in the last week.

The December 5 arrest of Shiite Moslem leader Shaykh 'Ali Salman sparked rioting that the opposition said killed 15 people. The authorities said only one person was killed.

Independent sources say Shiite Moslems account for between 50 percent and 60 percent of the island state's population but the authorities say they represent only 35 percent.

Unemployment Reportedly at Root of Unrest

NC0501130295 Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NICOSIA, Jan 5 (AFP) - Bahrain seeks to give more jobs to its own people to ease the unemployment believed to be a main cause of last month's Shiite Moslem unrest, diplomats posted in Manama said Thursday [5 January].

In a bid to ease grievances, the labour and social affairs ministry has called on both the public and private sectors to hire Bahraini nationals in place of foreign employees, they said, contacted by telephone from Nicosia.

Companies would have to abide by a quota system, in what amounts to a revival of a plan introduced four years ago but with little success.

Bahrain has 540,000 residents, including 200,000 foreigners, and has one of the highest unemployment rates among the oil-producing Arab monarchies of the Gulf. The number of local job-seekers soared from 4,000 or 6.6 percent in 1981 to more than 13,000 or 15 percent in 1991, official figures show.

The opposition says the real unemployment rate is at least three times as high, with Shiites in the Sunni Moslem-led country the worst hit. They make up more than 60 percent of the population, according to independent sources. The Shiites are barred from the army and police force.

The rise in unemployment, the authorities say, is a result of the growing number of school and university graduates, around 5,000 of whom enter the job market at the end of each academic year.

Another cause has been that Bahrain's oil reserves are gradually being exhausted, while Manama faces growing competition from other financial and commercial centres in the Gulf and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The labour ministry has warned companies against refusing to give priority to locals, the diplomats said. They will have to give "valid reasons" for turning down any Bahraini applicant. But an official of the ministry, quoted by Al-Ayyam daily, has criticized Bahraini jobseekers themselves for turning down jobs "because of low salaries, long distances to travel to work or because the conditions are hard."

Many employers prefer foreigners, in most cases Asians, "because they are underpaid, docile and always at their beck and call," one diplomat said, asking not to be named.

Diplomats said the new measures were likely to go unheeded as a result of such disparities.

Apart from their economic demands, both the Islamic and liberal opposition have called for a return to parliamentary life in Bahrain following a 20-year suspension.

After thousands of Shiite protestors took to the streets in December, clashing with police, Amir 'Isa Bin Salman al-Khalifah agreed only to reinforce the consultative council whose members he himself appoints.

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Bahraini authorities are holding 2,370 people arrested during the unrest, the London-based Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain said on Wednesday. They were to face trial for damaging public property.

The December 5 arrest of Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman sparked rioting that the opposition said killed 15 people, including members of the security forces. The authorities said only one policemen was killed.

Situation 'Completely Stable'; Detainees Released

MM0401141195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official sources in Manama told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that Bahraini authorities have over the past two days released about 60 people who were arrested in recent incidents.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that preliminary investigations with some detainees have revealed their suspect contacts with a foreign embassy in Manama.

The sources said that a number of other detainees will be referred to the competent courts within the next two days to decide on the charges leveled at them, most notably of attacking private and public property.

The sources stressed that conditions in Bahrain are completely stable, contrary to some media reports. The sources said that many of the statements issued on the situation in Bahrain are conspiratorial and untrue.

The official sources stressed that some of the organizations issuing and distributing these leaflets abroad do not exist in Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia

Authorities Arrest More Islamic Activists, Students

NC0401180795 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 4 (AFP)—The Saudi authorities have arrested more Islamic activists, many of them students, the dissident Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) said Wednesday [4 January].

In a statement to AFP from its London headquarters the CDLR said 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Muqbil, a student from Al-Qasim University in northwestern Riyadh was arrested with a group of colleagues and "taken to an unknown destination."

Two young militants, Ibrahim al-Hamid and 'Adil Anizan, were also arrested in the Hayl region northwest of Riyadh, the statement said, without specifying when the arrests took place.

The CDLR, a fundamentalist opposition group, also reported the release of Shaykh Yusuf Bin-'Abdallah al-Hujaylan, a teacher in the Buraydah area, 300 kilometres (180 miles) northwest of Riyadh, along with six other academics and students. Shaykh Yusuf was arrested in October.

In September the CDLR said the Saudi authorities had arrested more than 1,000 political activists, including clerics and university professors, in a military-style crackdown.

Most of the arrests took place in Buraydah.

The Saudi authorities banned the CDLR several days after it was formed in May 1993 with the goal of fighting "oppression and injustice" and since then it has organized activities from London.

Yemen

Steps To Prevent Clashes With Saudi Arabia Agreed

NC0401223495 Paris AFP in English 2208 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Jan 4 (AFP)—Yemen and Saudi Arabia have agreed to halt military movements along their disputed border and pull their forces back to positions they occupied before a recent border clash, a senior Yemeni official said Wednesday [4 January].

The agreement came at a meeting on the border Monday between the Saudi emir of Najran, Fahd Bin-Khalid al-Sadiri, and Yemeni Deputy Interior Minister Colonel Husayn 'Arab, the official said, asking not to be named.

The previous day, Saudi army patrols attacked a Yemeni position in the northwestern province of Sa'dah near the disputed border zone, a Yemeni military official said. Riyadh did not report the incident.

The Yemeni official said both sides decided Monday to "pull armed Saudi and Yemeni units back to their initial positions," and to "halt border patrols near the border."

The measures were aimed at enhancing contacts ahead of a visit to Saudi Arabia by Yemeni President 'Ali Abdallah Salih, he said.

Contacts between Sanaa and Riyadh had calmed the situation, he added.

Salih spoke to King Fahd by telephone Tuesday.

A Yemeni tribal chief said more than 10 people were killed or wounded in the clashes Sunday and military equipment was destroyed.

Saudi and Yemeni units also clashed in the same province on December 7, leaving three Yemenis wounded, according to Sanaa.

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Yemen claims sovereignty over three Saudi provinces—Najran, Qizan and 'Asir—assigned to the kingdom under a treaty signed in 1934. The Yemeni government argues that the treaty expired in September 1992 and is opposed to renewing it.

The two countries have been trying to mend relations damaged by the Gulf War and last year's civil war in Yemen.

Yemen backed Iraq during the Gulf War, and Saudi Arabia supported south Yemen in its bid for independence last year.

House Speaker Confers With Saudi Ambassador

JN0401131495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives speaker, today received Brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, the ambassador of fraternal Saudi Arabia and dean of the diplomatic corps in our country.

They discussed ties between the two fraternal countries and means of strengthening and improving them.

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Saddam Addresses Cabinet on Regional Issues

JN0401195595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has said: Iraq's faith in the Arab nation, its role, and message, is the factor that made the blockade continue for five years in this comprehensive and unjust manner. This is also because Iraq has supported every Arab cause and fought in more than one Arab place, whether with material support or with the actual participation of its Armed Forces.

In addition, this Iraqi understanding of pan-Arab thought made Iraq progress and become a vital part of what is now called the information, or technology, revolution. In a few years, it reached the level of the advanced states that reached this level in tens of years—some of them in hundreds of years—beginning with the hideous ages of colonialism to the comprehensive wars among themselves or against the developing states.

He added: Iraqi understanding of pan-Arab thought has encouraged Iraq to deal with science in a vital and effective way. So, the sons of Iraq who are descended from simple urban or rural families have become rivals of scientists and technocrats in the advanced states. In fact, they have surpassed them in some fields of technology, in addition to the fact they are ahead of them in their zeal, creativity, and sacrifice.

His excellency said: In the past, the Zionist entity used to aggress on any Arab state any time it wanted to, and triumphed. However, Iraq, through its understanding of pan-Arab thought and faith in the Arab nation, defended Iraq against a state which is bigger than it in area, population, and industry. At the time, its army was superior to the Iraqi Army in terms of size, arms, and technology. It fought against it for eight years, not six days or two weeks. It achieved comprehensive military, ideological, and political victory.

He added: This is pan-Arab ideology and these are its achievements. For this reason, the United States, the old colonialist states, and Zionism mobilized their armies against it. It was fought militarily by the forces of 28 out of 41 states which colluded with the tyrants of money and colonialism. What was the result? Pan-Arab ideology has protected Iraq. It has safeguarded the great meanings and values of the nation's history. The glow of these values did not go out. The colonialists and the Zionists failed to achieve their objectives. They have no weapon left to fight Iraq other than imposing a blockade on its people. It is a blockade that included everything—the needle, aspirin, and bread. It is a blockade that is an honor to Iraq and its history. So, will this blockade bring honor to those who planned it, imposed it, contributed to it, and supported it with their hearts and mouths? Or, will it remain a disgrace in the history of all of them?

Describing the current Arab situation, his excellency said there is a state of psychological collapse in the ranks of several Arab regimes. This is not the result of a previous intention, but is instead the result of weakness, incapability, or actual threat. But there is also a case that completely contradicts this: The existence of an awakening process in the Arab masses due to their awareness of the value of their role and their efforts to follow the right path, which the nation is required to adopt to achieve progress.

In both cases, the regimes and the masses need someone to show them it is possible to adhere to what military science calls vital land in order to build a strong defensive position and to establish an honest basis behind which power can be mobilized and moved forward. This will encourage these regimes to hold themselves together and to provide the awakening Arab masses with what they need to to crystallize their faith and their serene, stable awareness.

Here, the greatness and hugeness of Iraq's responsibility becomes clear. While it must stand fast, despite all the wounds that have been caused to it by relatives, Iraq must not relinquish its principles. It must be vital in its actions, activity, and steadfastness in order to express all these meanings and to play its role in urging the nation to express itself; it must play its part in deepening the nation's faith in that role and crystallizing it in a serious, firm, and progressive manner.

President Saddam Husayn delivered his speech while he chaired the first meeting of the Council of Ministers in 1995.

At the beginning of the session, his excellency congratulated the members of the Council of Ministers on the new year and expressed his best wishes to the people and the nation.

The Council of Ministers devoted its first meeting to discussing the current budget and the investment plan of the 1995 unified state draft budget.

The unified state budget draft was drawn up on bases that are in line with the crossing phase and its goals. Therefore, it stresses the need to continue to implement the projects of the 1994 plan and to focus on new production projects that will produce direct and quick revenues in 1995 and 1996 in accordance with specific priorities. It also urges sound assessment; rationed expenditures; providing the best services at the least cost; increasing the efficiency and productivity of machines, equipment, and transportation means; and diversifying revenues.

Following a detailed discussion of the draft budget, it was decided that the unified budget should be reconsidered and should be reduced in accordance with clear and new arrangements within the framework of the general goals and bases that have been approved.

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Saddam Said Massing Troops Near Kurdistan

NC0401163495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's regime has been moving its military units in the direction of Iraqi Kurdistan for the past two weeks in a new attempt to implement its standing threats to launch an attack on the citizens of that area.

According to Iranian reports published today, these military units are assembling on the approaches to the principal roads leading to Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah.

The regime's troop concentrations opposite northern Iraqi areas coincide with the unusual conditions prevailing there as a result of the disputes between armed groups belonging to the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

It is well-known that Saddam Husayn will not refrain from making continuous threats to northern Iraq, which enjoys international protection preventing the regime's forces from launching a campaign of extermination against the citizens of the north.

PUK-KDP 'Fierce Clashes' Continue in North

PUK Said in Control of Irbil

NC0401165895 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 4 (AFP)—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has gained control of two major towns in northern Iraq, driving the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) from Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah in fierce clashes, Iranian Kurds said Wednesday [4 January].

PUK forces used tanks and other heavy weapons for the first time in Irbil to force KDP fighters to withdraw to Halabjah, a Kurdish town near the Iranian border, they said.

Tanks were stationed Tuesday at Irbil University, which has been turned into a headquarters for the PUK forces, the Iranian Kurds said after arriving in Tehran from the border region.

They accused the Iraqi army of providing logistical support for the PUK, which is led by Jalal Talabani.

The Iraqi government newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH and the London-based Saudi newspaper AL-HAYAT also said Tuesday that Irbil had fallen to the PUK and Mas'ud Barzani's KDP had withdrawn from the city.

The Kurdish groups, which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the January-February 1991 Gulf war, have their administrative headquarters in Irbil.

The latest fighting between the two main Kurdish factions erupted on December 24. They clashed several times last year in a fierce power struggle.

After nearly 400 people died in clashes last August the two groups announced a joint command on November 25 to prevent further fighting.

PUK Official Explains Reasons for Fighting

JN0401190595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Interview with Fu'ad Ma'sum, member of the political bureau of the PUK, in Irbil, by Nabil Sabbagh in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ma'sum] The city of al-Sulaymaniyah is calm. There is no fighting, clashes, or anything of this sort. As for Irbil, fighting took place but the situation was decided two days ago in favor of the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan]. The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] force is now gathered—they are few in number—at their party headquarters and at the Sheraton Hotel. Irbil city has been calm for the past two days.

[Sabbagh] The city is calm, but has the price been a great number of casualties?

[Ma'sum] The number of those killed in Irbil was no more than six or seven. There was no fighting in that sense, but most of the forces that were here surrendered. The KDP no longer has any military concentrations except in small numbers in the headquarters and the Sheraton Hotel. The higher follow-up committee is continuing its meetings in Irbil to ease the situation in general.

Today, many KDP officials who were here or who held senior posts in the Kurdistan region's government have left their homes with the approval of the PUK, escorted by the INC [Iraqi National Congress]. They went to the KDP center at the Salah-al-Din Hotel.

[Sabbagh] Reports speak of kidnapping and counterkidnapping of officials.

[Ma'sum] I assure you that there is no kidnapping or counterkidnapping at all.

[Sabbagh] Can you give us an idea of the cause of the clashes, given that the two parties should have been in agreement?

[Ma'sum] The cause of the fighting is based on a principal point. We can say that the situation came to a head as a result of the KDP's acquisition of money collected at customs posts in the Dahuk governorates. The acquisition of more than one-half of the region's revenues is a robbery that is denounced by the laws of the region and the world.

[Sabbagh] This is a serious [word indistinct].

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[Ma'sum] Certainly, we are certain of this. This is not a unilateral charge. The operation occurred with the knowledge of the other parties as well as Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the executive body.

[Sabbagh] Aren't you afraid that these battles will have negative repercussions for the meetings and future understanding between the two parties?

[Ma'sum] We are certainly pained because of the situation. These days, brother Jalal Talabani launched several initiatives to stop the fighting and took steps to restore the normal situation in Kurdistan, so we would continue working together in the region's establishments.

[Sabbagh] How can we translate the intentions and the measures you have talked about into tangible factors in the life of the Kurds in the Kurdistan Region?

[Ma'sum] We made proposals to the follow-up committee and through Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi. These are:

1. Withdrawal of forces from the positions they have occupied, whether regarding our forces in Irbil and other areas, or regarding their forces that occupied the Shaqlawah city.

2. INC forces will replace our forces and the forces of the KDP.

3. There will be demilitarized zones; namely, the entrances to Irbil and Shaqlawah. The sums of money which the KDP confiscated must be returned.

We made these proposals to the follow-up committee and we are awaiting the KDP reply.

PUK Blames KDP for Fighting, Defends Policy

NC0401191295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political predictions and analysis of the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan proliferate day by day. The various political parties, including the two major parties, express conflicting viewpoints on the reasons behind the ongoing fighting. Every party tries to absolve itself of negative conduct and violations, both at the party and government levels.

Despite these conflicting views on the expanding fighting, the two sides, as well as all the political parties within the Kurdistan Front, the Iraqi opposition, our friends abroad, and the broad masses, agree that the continuation of the fighting directly and seriously undermines all the gains and privileges accrued to our people in the course of struggle by the various parties and the sacrifices of our Kurdish people throughout history, including the 1991 uprising.

This undisputed fact should have been further reason for the two sides to halt the fighting, control its scope, and resort to reason to resolve all the thorny issues involving both sides.

Despite all this clear understanding regarding this regrettable fighting, the question remains why do they continue fighting and aggravating matters? Or rather, who stands to gain from the continued deterioration in Kurdistan?

To answer this question, we should point out a few things, leaving the conclusion to our listeners:

1. After the cease fire in mid-1994 and the signing of the strategic alliance document between the two sides, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] embarked on a sincere process to restore normality in all the areas under its control. Meanwhile, the other party [Kurdistan Democratic Party—KDP] was deliberately sluggish in following suit in the areas under its control.

2. The PUK started to reduce most of its regular forces, as represented in the special brigades, to the minimum possible level. The KDP did the exact opposite. After the agreement was signed, the KDP set up not less than 10 commando regiments in al-Sulaymaniyah alone.

3. The PUK handed over all the proceeds of the customs points to the Government of Kurdistan. Part of these proceeds had been spent on earlier military operations. A parliamentary committee, including MP's from the KDP's Yellow Bloc, set up especially for that purpose, verified this. In contrast, the KDP confiscated all customs proceeds at all points in the area of (Bahdinan), including the Ibrahim Khalil point, the live artery of the government's revenues and the main source of finance for Kurdish parties, including the PUK. The KDP has refused to hand over hundreds of millions of dinars to the government since the beginning of May 1994 and continues to do so. It deposited most of the money in foreign banks, while our masses are still suffering from the impact of the international embargo, the embargo imposed by the Iraqi government, the devaluation of the Iraqi dinar, and the slow economic cycle in Kurdistan.

4. The KDP pursued a policy of extortion to put pressure on the PUK, thanks to its control of government revenues and the only portal for citizens and humanitarian organization workers to use in their travel. The KDP also used its influence in the area of (Bahdinan) to circumvent government laws. It went so far as to secretly deal in and cultivate narcotics. It only stopped this ugly practice after it received a clear ultimatum from a foreign party. But the KDP went back to procrastination in that regard.

5. After the strategic agreement was signed, the KDP continued the assassinations of the PUK main cadres. It also continued its misleading media campaigns through the (Guan organization), which is supervised by the party's intelligence organ, known as Parathin.

This comparison shows beyond any doubt the KDP's ulterior designs against the Kurdistan government and its main rival, the PUK. It seems that the decision-making center in the party has mistakenly thought that using political extortion and exerting pressure through

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its monopoly of the region's financial revenues would ultimately compel the PUK, the remaining political parties, as well as the Kurdistan government to accept the fait accompli. The KDP is using the PUK's care in sustaining the successful democratic experience in Kurdistan and its refusal to give it up, a concern repeatedly reiterated by the PUK's leaders and asserted at party meetings and seminars of its supporters.

The rapidly collapsing morale of the KDP's gunmen and the growing popular support for the PUK provide irrefutable proof of the futility of the demagogic policy and weak arguments of the KDP's decisionmakers, who insist on keeping up the fighting and gambling with the gains and sacrifices of the people of Kurdistan.

Kurdish Administration Said 'Nonexistent'

MM0501085495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jan 95 p 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr al-Qusaybati: "Kurdish Prime Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: Government's Fate Unknown, Central Bank Bankrupt"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Kusert Rasul 'Ali, prime minister of Iraqi Kurdistan, has said that the fate of the Kurdish government and administration is "unknown" due to the complications of the infighting between the two parties led by Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani.

He stressed to AL-HAYAH that "the administration is in practice nonexistent." He pointed to the bankruptcy of the Kurdish central bank, which provides the salaries of government employees.

He told AL-HAYAH over the telephone from Irbil yesterday that "we are for peace, normalization, and ending the fratricide. We are in the process of initiating a political dialogue with all the parties. But it seems that our brothers in the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Barzani) are not convinced of the cease-fire."

He added that "the negotiations are continuing through the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] and Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi," chairman of the UINC's Executive Council. He stressed that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Talabani) "complied yesterday (the day before yesterday) with the cease-fire on all fronts. But the KDP attacked today (yesterday) the Chuman and Kasnazan axis. There is fighting on some fronts, but calm dominates Irbil."

Asked about the fate of his government in the light of the critical situation and the effects of the fighting on the two parties' partnership in the government, the Kurdish prime minister told AL-HAYAH: "The government's fate is unknown. The fighting is continuing despite the PUK's desire for peace and to normalize conditions" in the Kurdish areas. He did not rule out the continuation of fighting if the mediations fail. [passage omitted]

Return of Central Government 'Demanded'

JN0501113395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—The campus of Salah-al-Din University in Irbil, northern Iraq, has turned into a battlefield between the gangs of the renegades Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani.

AL-'IRAQ cites reports from the region as saying that the two sides used mortars, rocket launchers, and 106-mm guns to shell the university buildings, which sustained heavy damage and were looted.

The paper reports that the saboteurs' leaders imposed a curfew in Irbil fearing the reaction of the citizens, who have started to publicly demand the return of the state agencies and the central government to address the tragic situation produced by the absence of the legitimate authority and the fighting among the agent factions.

The inhabitants of the area, who are terrified and await death at any moment, are also suffering from food shortage, a lack of heating fuel, and frequent electricity power cuts.

The paper says that the warehouses of the UN agencies in Irbil, and their contents of foodstuffs and medical supplies, were looted. The robbery and looting of markets, shops, and citizens' houses has also increased.

The paper's sources said that the gangs of the two agents battled to control and plunder the Bahrakah complex to the north of Irbil. The battles resulted in the death of several children and innocent citizens.

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Peres on Mubarak Meeting, Talks With Syria

TA0401175995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One day after his talks in Cairo with President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he told the Egyptians that if they want to mediate between Israel and Syria, by all means, but not to take sides. Peres told the Knesset plenum that he also repeated that Israel cannot be expected to announce that it accepts the Syrian position before the negotiations begin.

Peres downplayed the security contacts between Syria and Israel in Washington, saying they deal with only one of the four elements, that in addition to security arrangements, the two sides must agree on the nature of peace, the final line of a withdrawal, and how much time is necessary to carry out the terms of the agreement to test each other's sincerity.

The foreign minister was responding to motions for the agenda on last week's Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian summit in Alexandria. Peres said that while he may not have been enthusiastic about the summit, for once a meeting of Arab leaders dealt with peace, not war with Israel.

Peres said that his talks in Cairo also produced Egyptian announcements eliminating all trade and tourism restrictions between the two countries, and he referred to a statement by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that there is no economic boycott between Egypt and Israel.

IDF Soldiers Return Fire in 2 Erez Shootings

TA0401175795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two shooting incidents occurred at the Erez checkpoint area earlier today. This developed from an initial IDF [Israel Defense Forces] investigation.

In one incident a Palestinian policeman fired shots at an IDF patrol near the checkpoint. The patrol's soldiers returned fire.

In the second incident, soldiers manning an IDF outpost approximately 2 kilometers south of the Erez checkpoint directed gunfire at three armed men driving in a car. Our forces were not harmed. One of the passengers, reportedly a Palestinian security service member, was wounded.

PLFP 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash Near Ramallah

TA0401193695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1930 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four terrorists from George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PLFP] were killed this evening in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit near Bayt Liqya south of Ramallah. One soldier was wounded in the leg.

Over 1,000 Terror Suspects Arrested in Past 2 Months

TA0501093795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, General Ilan Biran, says the army has arrested over 1,000 suspects in connection with terrorist activity in the past two months. He said most belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Gen. Biran said there were still several terrorist cells and dozens of wanted terrorists operating. He was speaking in an interview with Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent.

Shahal on Erez Clashes, Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA0501100095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Yoram Ronen; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Can you confirm the report that the Palestinian police had planned to harm IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers?

[Shahal] From the information we received, including reports from the field, there is no doubt that the shooting came from the direction of the Palestinian police outpost or from a distance that made shooting impossible without their knowledge, and that the IDF force operated according to instructions on self-defense. The soldiers' behavior conformed with the experience gained from similar incidents in that area.

[Ronen] But the very intention of the Palestinian police to harm our soldiers is a grave escalation in the situation in Gaza.

[Shahal] If you paid attention, the wording of the joint committee's report does not say explicitly that Palestinian police were involved. It referred to a force operating from within the police position. I believe that difference is important, but in reference to the problem you raised, I do not believe that of the thousands of Palestinian policemen in uniform, all are righteous gentiles or support the agreement.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 5 January reports that "an IDF investigation has found that all the cartridges found in the area of the Erez incident came from Kalashnikov assault rifles, the type of rifles used by the Palestinian police."]

[Ronen] We all recall the former Palestinian policeman who two weeks ago planned a Jerusalem central bus station attack, which was miraculously foiled.

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[Shahal] There were two people, one ran away and the other was killed by the explosives attached to his body.

[Ronen] The man killed was once a Palestinian policeman.

[Shahal] He was a Palestinian policeman who had deserted. Therefore, I believe the test is more comprehensive. To sum up: In the joint activity by the two police forces and the Border Police with Palestinian police, overall activity and joint patrols have been reasonably successful. There is no doubt that among the Palestinian police there are those who belong to extremist elements. We demand from the Palestinian leadership that it take measures which we would regard as a serious effort to deal with this problem.

[Ronen] You, of course, demanded that from your Palestinian interlocutors when you participated with Shim'on Peres and Yosi Sarid in the Cairo talks with Nabil Sha'th this week. Do you feel a there was a graver atmosphere, more concern, among the Palestinians in the Cairo talks?

[Shahal] Their definition was that there is a crisis atmosphere, but no feeling of failure. I feel that definition describes the situation. There is a feeling of crisis. They feel that they are not fulfilling their public's expectations that their economic situation would improve overnight with peace. We feel disappointment over the fact that the Palestinian leadership, the Palestinian Authority, is not doing enough in the area of defense: to make sure there are no attacks and no shooting incidents. But, we must say clearly and openly that neither side has any other alternative. Anybody discussing the Israeli-Palestinian issue must take into account that there is no alternative. The alternative is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Therefore, the Palestinian leadership feels that an effort must be made to make sure the agreement succeeds. Our feeling is that we must stand firm in our demands, especially on security, in order to make sure that we will be able to reach some sort of separation between us and them. We do not want another 2.5 million Palestinians on Israel's soil.

[Ronen] Will there be a breakthrough in the Rabin-'Arafat meeting next week?

[Shahal] I think the meeting will be very important therefore it is important to prepare it. Shim'on Peres was right in saying that we have to make sure the meeting is preplanned. The meeting must undoubtedly provide answers to several tough questions on the agenda.

[Ronen] But it is still not clear whether the meeting will take place next week?

[Shahal] It might not take place next week. Preparatory work is required on several very serious issues and there is no point in holding such a meeting if it is not planned to ascertain whether the proposals raised have a chance of being accepted. We are talking about the defense of Jewish residents in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, one of the most complex issues we have to cope with.

'Ivri: Country Ready To Clarify Technology Transfer

TA0501130095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 94 pp A1, A6

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States is looking into reports that Israel transferred U.S. technologies for the development of the upgraded Lavi jet fighter, dubbed F-10, to the PRC as part of the cooperation between the two countries.

Announcing that such an investigation is under way, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the U.S. Administration had no evidence about the transfer of such information without its approval but if this turns out to be the case, sanctions will be adopted against Israel. According to him, the issue has been on the administration's agenda for some time.

Reacting to the LOS ANGELES TIMES report, the Israeli Embassy and the Israel Aircraft Industries office in Washington said that Israel has not supplied U.S. technologies to the PRC. According to McCurry, the State Department is taking the reports seriously, despite the denials.

Two days ago, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri said Israel is aware of the U.S. sensitivity about military exports to the PRC, which represent a violation of U.S. law and could be used as a pretext to block the defense aid Israel receives from the United States. "Israel is prepared to clarify to the Americans any question pertaining to the transfer of the Lavi's technologies," 'Ivri said. He added that know-how about the Lavi that found its way abroad had been developed in Israel. As for relations with the PRC, 'Ivri said Israel had transferred some aircraft technology to the PRC. [passage omitted]

Deputy Head of Shin Bet Tenders Resignation

TA0501102695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet deputy head is resigning from the service because of his relations with the Shin Bet head and the acting head, our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned. He was appointed to that post when the Shin Bet head left for studies in the United States a few months ago and a different senior official was appointed to stand in for the head. There were tense relations between the acting head and the deputy head. The deputy head had reservations about the acting head's performance because he has no experience with Palestinian terrorism in the territories, while the deputy head is the Judaea and Samaria commander and is considered a professional specializing in

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Palestinian terrorism. The Shin Bet head has returned to the service and the acting head returned as planned to his earlier post.

Meretz: Government Secretly Agrees to Renew Building

TA0501113295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Meretz ministers and Knesset faction are demanding an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin over what they suspect are "secret undertakings by Rabin to continue construction in existing settlements."

Meretz Knesset faction chairman Ran Kohen requested the meeting yesterday in a letter he dispatched to Rabin in which he claimed that Meretz possesses information that Rabin, "or someone acting on his behalf," had reached agreement with the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and with individual settlements to allow settlement expansion.

Kohen maintains that "these agreements were made in contradiction to declared government policy, and without informing Meretz, and this despite the clear knowledge that Meretz actively opposes any further construction in the settlements."

A source close to Rabin refused to confirm or deny the Meretz assertion last night. But the source did invite Meretz to "relay to the prime minister whatever information the faction claims to have obtained."

Meretz has been seeing red ever since the Efrat issue erupted. It was clear that Rabin gave the go-ahead for construction, and then did not stop it but reached a compromise with the settlers, which vexed Meretz.

But the displeasure with Rabin is reported to run far deeper in Meretz than the particular suspicions Kohen refers to in his letter.

The consensus in the party is that Rabin has in effect already drawn up a map for the permanent settlement with the PLO, and that this map includes under Israel's control regions such as the 'Etzyon Bloc and settlements like Alfey Menashe, adjacent to the Green Line and which were approved by Labor governments. Rabin, it is said in Meretz, has no intention of halting construction in those areas.

In private conversations, Meretz leaders accuse Rabin of willfully concealing information from them. "Rabin talks with (NRP Knesset Member) Hanan Porat and (Council head) Uri Ari'el more than he does with members of his largest and most loyal coalition partner," Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni complained yesterday.

She contended that "there is construction in many settlements and we have the right to know where and why. I assume Rabin has his conception of the state's ultimate frontiers but he cannot keep everything to himself and keep us all in the dark. We have the right to know the exact constructions sites according to Rabin's own map. A place like Psagot is a worse sore than Netzarim, and suddenly we hear that a road is being constructed there. This is insufferable."

Aloni took 'Arafat adviser Ahmad al-Tibi to task "for inflaming passions too much at this juncture. This is counterproductive to the continuation of the peace process. We and al-Tibi have the same aims but caution and prudence are indicated."

Al-Tibi has been leading Arab protests against a number of Israeli settlements.

Minister Denies Charge

TA0501062395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer denies Meretz claims that agreements have been signed or understandings reached either with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip or settlement leaders on construction in the settlements. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the construction and housing minister was responding to a letter by Knesset Member Ran Kohen on the matter. The prime minister's bureau said in response that if Meretz has information about agreements with settlers it should hand it over to the prime minister for perusal. Justice Minister David Liba'i said he will demand the reestablishment of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs to supervise the work of the committee reviewing special building requests.

Minister Yosi Sarid told the Meretz secretariat last night that the Efrat affair developed because of a conspiracy by officials on the subministerial level against the government without the knowledge of the prime minister and the ministers, and in violation of government policy that new settlements would not be set up, land would not be expropriated, and there would not be investments in the territories. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Shulamit Aloni said that Meretz ministers have called on the prime minister to give them a full and precise picture of all building permits given in the territories, including those to flesh out existing settlements.

Annexation of 'Adumim Bloc' to Green Line Planned

TA0501111795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 94 p 5

[Report by 'Ofer Petersburg]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration is checking a few sites beyond the boundaries of the town of Ma'ale Adumim in which to relocate the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock marking the Green Line.

Several sites have already been inspected. Apparently, the roadblock will be relocated to the Kefar Adumim junction, east of Ma'ale Adumim. This move is part of the peace roads' plan and a more comprehensive plan dubbed "Adumim Bloc" currently being examined by the Housing Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office.

Ma'ale Adumim's city limits lie only 150 meters away from the edge of Jerusalem, but its remote houses are actually located 7 to 8 km from the capital.

A large overpass is currently under construction at the Ma'ale Adumim junction at a cost of 15 million shekels. The entire area is slated to be populated by Jewish residents based on a plan—which is already being executed almost in secret—to link Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood. The Tourism Ministry has already given its approval for the building of 4,000 hotel rooms on the road leading from Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem.

As part of a Housing Ministry program, Ma'ale Adumim itself is slated to expand in the direction of Jerusalem, to grow from its current 5,000 to 18,000 housing units, and to treble its population. According to new plans, Ma'ale Adumim will also be included in three new interregional peace roads.

This means that Ma'ale Adumim will become a center in Judaea and Samaria which, through circumstances, will be annexed to Israel's boundaries within the near future. The "Adumim Bloc" comprehensive plan will include many settlements in the area, including some beyond the Green Line.

Reacting to this report, Housing Ministry Director General Arye Mizrahi said yesterday: "As far as we are concerned, Ma'ale Adumim and its jurisdiction are not part of Judaea and Samaria, but a location in central Israel. Every year, including this year, thousands of housing units will be built in Ma'ale Adumim which will link it to Jerusalem, in the direction of Pisgat Ze'ev. As for the 'Adumim Bloc' plan, this is a political issue on which I do not want to comment."

Group Demands Probe Into Argentine Bombing

TA0401180195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A coalition of Israelis and Americans is calling on the Israeli Government to pressure Argentina into pursuing the investigation into the1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and last year's blast at the offices of the Argentine Jewish community.

Several of the speakers at a Jerusalem press conference today claimed that the Israeli Government was covering up what it knew about the blast. Yohanan Ramati, whose daughter was among those killed in the embassy bombing, said he believed that Syria was behind the bombing. He claimed that evidence points to a Syrian connection.

Meanwhile, Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan of the Likud has agreed to press for a Knesset investigation of the terrorist attacks.

'Nationalist Figures' Form New Arab Political Party

TA0401154795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Dec 94 p 7

[Report by Yasir Mawasi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nazareth—Within framework of the efforts by political and partisan bodies and cadres in the Arab sector to run in the upcoming Knesset elections, the formation of a new party called the National Progressive Alliance [al-tahaluf al-watani al-taqaddumi] was announced yesterday in Nazareth.

The new party is made up of the Progressive List for Peace, the Independents Movement, and other nationalist figures who are preparing to run in the next Knesset elections. At the end of their meeting, which lasted several hours, the participants issued a statement that basically focuses on acute local issues of Arab residents in Israel. The most important of those issues relate to land and its problems such as property tax, building plots, confiscation of Beduin land in the Negev, as well as the issues of education and the budgets allocated by the government to the Arab sector.

Some of this party's founders say that the new party will devote its efforts to supporting the peace process.

The new party's members rejected the allegation that the multiplicity of Arab parties might weaken the Arab vote, noting that the members of the new party will try to unify the Arab ranks, unite the Arab forces, and eliminate the fragmentation from which Arabs inside Israel are suffering.

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Prime Minister al-Majali Reportedly Resigns

Court Chief Slated for Post

JN0501083695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Jan 95 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali Wednesday [4 January] offered his resignation to His Majesty King Husayn, paving the way for Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to form a new government, well-informed sources said.

It was not clear whether the new government would be announced today or whether it will be delayed several days until after Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou concludes his four-day official visit to the Kingdom. Mr. Papandreou's visit will begin Friday.

Some sources expected that there was not enough time for the new government to be appointed and sworn in before the visit of the Greek prime minister and the accompanying delegation. These sources said Dr. al-Majali could remain in office for several days until al-Sharif Zayd has had time to consult with major political groups on the make-up of his government.

However, other sources said that al-Sharif Zayd has had ample time to contact prospective ministers and can form his government immediately.

While the sources expect the new government to include a similar number of parliamentarians as in Dr. al-Majali's team, they say the new ministers will be more representative of the various political trends in the country.

"The new government will not be a big change from Dr. al-Majali's cabinet but it will be a credible change," said an informed source. "It will likely include people who have spoken out against past wrongs...they will be more dynamic in addressing these problems."

The new government is expected to carry out several policies in the first several weeks of its tenure to improve relations with Parliament and other opposition groups.

The new government will have to deal with the political and economic changes accompanying the Jordan-Israeli peace accord, the Kingdom's regional role and relations with the Palestinians.

The Islamists, which are not expected to join the al-Sharif Zayd team as a bloc, say that their members can now join the government as individuals. Whether al-Sharif Zayd will ask any of them to join, however, remains unclear.

Upon his return from a private visit to Austria on Monday, King Husayn said: "We are in a situation in which we continue to reconsider our conditions."

"I think we should also reconsider our situation in terms of the need for a new start with regard to the responsibilities and challenges of the future," the King said.

Political sources said the King's recent reference to the need for profound change could go beyond the government to the Royal Court and other official institutions.

Strong contenders for replacing al-Sharif Zayd as chief of the Royal Court include King Husayn's political advisor Marwan al-Qasim and Dr. al-Majali. However, sources could not rule out the appointment of a surprise nominee.

Among those tipped to be included in the new cabinet are: Deputies 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Salih Irshaydat, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Samir al-Habashinah, 'Awad Khulayfat, 'Arif al-Batayinah, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi and 'Abd-al-Hadi al- Majali, former Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, former Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah, former Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz- al-Din, Minister of Supply 'Adil al-Qudah and Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

Al-Sharif Zayd formed his first government in 1989 and stepped down in late 1989 after overseeing the first democratic elections in the country since 1956.

Al-Sharif Zayd took over the premiership again in October 1991 and stayed in power without changes until the appointment of Dr. al-Majali.

Al-Majali Reportedly Set To Resign

JN0501123395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said he will tender his government's resignation to His Majesty King Husayn in the next few hours. The prime minister said that accepting the resignation and forming a new government is up to his majesty.

In a press statement upon emerging from a cabinet session this afternoon, Dr. al-Majali said: I am very satisfied with what I have done over the past 18 months, enjoying the satisfaction of His Majesty King Husayn.

The prime minister added: I am a soldier in the service of his majesty wherever I am and at any time.

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Al-Hariri Leaves U.S., To Resume Duties 'This Week'

NC0401184695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1816 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Atlanta, Georgia in the United States about one hour ago after undergoing surgery to enlarge his coronary arteries. A few moments ago we succeeded in telephoning him before he boarded his plane.

We asked about his health.

[Begin recording] [al-Hariri] My health is excellent, thank God. I did not undergo a surgical operation. It was only an angioplasty process to open the arteries.

[Announcer Antoine 'Awn] It has been reported that your visit to Paris is intended to further your medical treatment. Are you satisfied with your recent medical treatment?

[Al-Hariri] No, I am not going to Paris for further medical treatment. Who said this?

['Awn] Today's newspapers.

[Al-Hariri] No, this is not true.

['Awn] Your Excellency, how much time do you need to recuperate before returning to your work?

[Al-Hariri] I am going back directly. Before the end of this week, God willing, I will be at my office.

France Said Weighing PLO Call To Transfer Fighters

NC0501091295 Paris AFP in English 2340 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 4 (AFP)—France is acting on a PLO request to transport Palestinian combatants from Lebanon to join the police force in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho enclave, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday [4 January].

Munir Maqdah, former head of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction in Lebanon, told reporters French officials were trying to organise the departure of some 2,000 Palestinian combatants from Lebanon.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz confirmed that the PLO had approached France to organise the operation and Lebanon had no objection. "This question was raised three months ago, but it has not yet been finalised. The PLO wants to know if France is ready to send a ship to transport Palestinian combatants from Lebanon to Gaza," Buwayz told AFP.

Some 350,000 Palestinian refugees live in Lebanon, nearly half of them in camps.

Earlier Lebanese officials said Lebanon planned to propose that new members of the Palestinian police be recruited in refugee camps on its territory, at an Arab interior ministers' meeting which opened in Tunis Wednesday. According to the proposal, the new recruits would be chosen among 'Arafat's supporters and could take with them medium and light weapons which still abound in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps.

Their transfer to the autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho would "ease the cost of training new recruits", one official said.

Lebanese Interior Minister Michel al-Murr has prepared a motion inviting "the Palestinian self-rule authority to recruit hundreds of trained Palestinians, who are present in refugee camps in Lebanon," the official said.

Informed sources here said the Lebanese proposal was aimed at reducing the numbers of 'Arafat's armed loyalists in Lebanon, where support for the PLO chief has widely decreased since he signed autonomy accords with Israel last year.

In November, Lebanon threatened to deploy the army in the Palestinian refugee camps after clashes between 'Arafat supporters and opponents of the peace accords killed six people and wounded 13 in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah compoun

Said Arranging Departure of Palestinian Gunmen

NC0501091795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night AFP cited Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz as saying that the PLO has asked France to arrange the departure of Palestinians [in Lebanon] who are eligible for service in the Palestinian police force. The foreign minister added that this issue has been the subject of discussion over the past three months, but it has not yet been resolved. Buwayz said that the talks revolve around the possibility of sending a ship to transfer the Palestinian gunmen from Lebanon to Gaza, noting that Lebanon has no objection to this step.

Meanwhile, former Fatah official Munir al-Maqdah has stated that the French officials are trying to organize the departure of about 2,000 gunmen to Gaza upon the PLO's request.

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Afghanistan

Russian Planes Bombard Chahab; Casualties Reported

LD0401163895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian and CIS warplanes have bombarded Chahab District in Takhar Province 11 times. Security sources told BAKHTAR that two days ago Russian and CIS warplanes violated our air space and bombarded Chahab District in Takhar Province 11 times. As a result of this savage bombardment several residents of the district were martyred or injured and eight houses were damaged.

A few days ago Russian and CIS warplanes also heavily bombarded Baharak District in Badakhshan. As a result 10 people were martyred and 32 were injured. Similarly, 88 shops and 15 houses were destroyed in the raids. Raids by Russian and [word indistinct] warplanes generally take place at night time.

In a statement, the Lawyers Association of Afghanistan called for the immediate cessation of these underhand raids and asked the peaceloving countries of the world to prevent this kind of ruthless bombardment, which only results in the killing of the innocent people of Afghanistan and Chechnya.

BAKHTAR Commentary on Transfer of Power

LD0201175595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting Mahmud Mestiri, Masud Khalili [President Rabbani's aide] said that the president should not hurry in the transfer of power. The BAKHTAR Information Agency political commentator writes the following:

Over the past months, generally the situation has been good in the country and in the capital. With the ending of the term set by the Solution and Settlement Council, the efforts of Mr. Mahmud Mestiri have resumed; and issuing a statement, the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] has issued a statement expressing its readiness to transfer power to a practical and acceptable mechanism. These events have created many fears and hopes, which means that the transfer of power without a specific mechanism and during a power vacuum can cause the disruption of peace and calm, the calm that prevails in Kabul now. On the other hand, the election of a leader through a Loya Jerga requires much time; and the transfer of power to another person can have a negative effect on the present administrative and military order, whose continuation is required in the present situation. In the past, the causes of the fighting were specific. Therefore, the United Nations shall, utilizing its political and moral influence, help the Afghan nation to overcome. So far as the ISA is concerned, it has agreed with the previous proposals of the organization in principle and has proposed specific and practical ways to complete those proposals, which drew the attention of the United Nations. Now that the efforts of the organization have reached a critical point, it should arrange its efforts in such a way as to help with the further expansion of the current calm situation. Going to a general vote through a Loya Jerga and the formation of a council of the representatives of province and jehadi [word indistinct] can be considered practical methods for electing the leadership of the country. For this reason, ulema, scholars, clergy, and various strata of the people have asked the president not to hurry in the transfer of power in order to avoid chaos and a power vacuum. The creation of a specific and practical mechanism for an elected and acceptable leadership necessitates patience and continuous work in order to maintain the present civil order and calm.

Bangladesh

UK Foreign Affairs Secretary Hurd Pays Visit

'Gamut' of Issues Discussed

BK0501115595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Douglas Hurd, UK secretary for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, is now staying in Dhaka on a three-day visit. The British minister arrived in Dhaka yesterday at the invitation of our Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman. He told newsmen at the airport that Bangladesh's importance to the United Kingdom is constantly increasing. Bilateral trade transactions between the two countries have been increasing. Bangladesh is the second largest recipient of British aid. Dhaka and London enjoy long-standing, friendly relations. The United Kingdom was among the countries which first recognized Bangladesh after its independence. Britain has always been beside Bangladesh as a friend. As members of the Commonwealth, the two countries were always close to each other and will remain so.

At the formal talks at Meghna, the state guest house, in the capital yesterday, the foreign ministers of UK and Bangladesh focused on the whole gamut of their bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues. After the talks, Douglas Hurd told newsmen that they mainly discussed trade, investment, and aid. He said that they also held talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, because troops from the UK and Bangladesh are serving in the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia. Hurd expressed deep grief and sympathy over the killing of a Bangladeshi soldier in Bosnia. The Bangladeshi foreign minister briefed his British counterpart on the Farakka Barrage and its adverse effect on Bangladesh.

Briefing newsmen on the talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries, Bangladeshi Foreign

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Secretary Mufleh Rahman Osmany said that the British foreign secretary has expressed his interest in expanding trade and economic relations with Bangladesh. They also exchanged views on the sharing of the Ganges River water and the repatriation of Chakma tribal refugees from India. They also discussed the situation in Kashmir and South Asian security. Recalling the promises made at the Uruguay Round by wealthy nations to provide special benefit to less developed countries in the investment and trade spheres, the Bangladeshi foreign minister said that Bangladesh, being a less developed country, expects to receive such special benefit.

It may be noted that the British foreign secretary is accompanied by a 10-member trade delegation during his visit. Two aid agreements were signed between Dhaka and London yesterday, the first day of Douglas Hurd's visit to Bangladesh. Under the agreement, the Government of Bangladesh will receive a grant of 33.38 million pounds, equivalent to 2.08 billion taka, for the development of two projects. The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and the British foreign secretary at the conference hall of the Economic Relations Department in Dhaka. The department said that out of the total aid, 15 million [word indistinct] pounds will be spent on the implementation of the second stage of bridge improvement and maintenance project. Apart from this, the remaining 18.38 million pounds will be spent for the implementation of the supervisory control and data acquisition and improvement of the management of gas infrastructure development project. The two projects will be funded by the Overseas Development Administration of the British Ministry for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. After the signing of the agreement, the UK secretary said that Bangladesh has been able to carry out wide-ranging reforms in all its economic spheres. He described the reforms as remarkably successful.

At a banquet hosted last night by the Bangladeshi foreign minister in honor of his British counterpart, the two ministers stressed the need for further strengthening the long-standing bilateral relation based on their mutual understanding and cooperation. We desire further expansion of the cooperation between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom.

Rahman, Hurd Issue Joint Statement

BK0501051795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh and Britain have expressed happiness over the progressive development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. They expressed the desire to further promote and broaden the mutually beneficial cooperation in political, economic, trade, and other fields. It was stated in a joint statement issued by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman and the British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Mr. Douglas Hurd, in Dhaka yesterday.

The joint statement said a number of regional, humanitarian, and human rights issues, including repatriation of Myanmar [Burma] refugees from Bangladesh, water sharing problem with India, repatriation of process of Bangladesh tribal refugees from India to three hill districts of Bangladesh, and the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh to Pakistan came under discussion. The British foreign secretary said a solution to these issues recognizing the legitimate interest of each party would accelerate the process of regional cooperation and development in the area. The two sides reviewed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and emphasized the need for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the dispute. They underlined the valuable work being done by UN (?peace force) to which both countries provided sizable contingents to save [words indistinct] of grave concern.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman expressed appreciation of the Bangladesh Government for cooperation and assistance extended by Britain toward the development efforts of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh side explained the developments in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC. Mr. Hurd also visited British-aided projects at Parvatipur and Dinajpur districts during his three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Visiting British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Douglas Hurd, called on Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman, in Dhaka yesterday. During the talks, Mr. Hurd appreciated Bangladesh's commendable economic development. He said his government will try its best to encourage the British entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh. However, he said, Bangladesh is to maintain a stable, political situation for attracting foreign investment. Mr. Hurd appreciated the performance of the Bangladeshi troops working in various parts of the world, including Bosnia, under the UN peacekeeping command. Begum Ziaur Rahman gave a brief resume of policies and programs of the present government to help rejuvenate Bangladesh's economy left by the past regime in a deplorable condition. But, the prime minister said, Bangladesh is now pursuing a strong policy for privatization and active market economy. A good investment opportunity has also been created in the country.

Two Aid Agreements Signed

BK0401033095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trade between Bangladesh and Britain is looking up and there is scope to do much better. This (?view) has been expressed by the Bangladesh foreign minister and his visiting British counterpart while reviewing bilateral relations at their formal talks in Dhaka yesterday.

Briefing newsmen on the talks, Foreign Secretary M.R. Osmani said Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman and Mr.

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Douglas Hurd discussed Bosnia-Herzegovina, as both Bangladesh and Britain contributed troops to UN Protection Force there. He said the two foreign ministers expressed the hope that a peaceful solution would be found in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the British foreign secretary said his country is keen to further develop trade and economic relations with Bangladesh. Mr. Osmani said the two leaders exchanged views on the Ganges water sharing issue, return of Chakma refugees [from India], and regional issues in South Asia, including the security question of the region and the Kashmir situation. He said they also discussed the investment climate in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and Britain have stressed the need to maintain and further develop the age-old relations between them based on shared experience, mutual understanding, and cooperation. Speaking at the dinner hosted in honor of the British foreign and commonwealth secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman said the ties have been further augmented by our commitments to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and the Commonwealth. In his reply, the British foreign secretary said the two countries ought to maintain their relations and Britain will continue to play a substantial role in this region.

Bangladesh is to receive 33.38 million pounds from Britain as grant for two projects. Two agreements to this effect were signed in Dhaka yesterday. Vising British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Douglas Hurd and Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman signed the agreements. Under one agreement, Bangladesh will get 15 million pounds for implementation of bridge improvement and maintenance project. Under another agreement, 18.38 million pounds will be given for supervisory control and data acquisition and management improvement program of the gas infrastructure development project. Bangladesh is the second largest recipient of British bilateral aid.

India

PRC Supplies 'Low Enriched' Uranium for Power Plant

BK0501124395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has supplied the first consignment of low enriched uranium for the Tarapur power station. The supply was made under the commercial contract concluded between the Department of Atomic Energy and China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation.

An official release in New Delhi says the consignment will be converted to fuel assemblies for the power station by the Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad. The Tarapur plant will be operated with low enriched uranium and mixed oxide fuel.

Singaporean Delegation Visits; Agreements Signed

Science Exchanges Pact Made

BK0401092195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Singapore have signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology. It was signed in Calcutta by the minister of state for science and technology, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, and the Singapore minister for trade and industry, Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong. The agreement envisages exchanges of scientific persons, joint execution of research and development projects, and cooperation in science and technology.

As already reported, a high-level delegation from Singapore headed by Prime Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong is now in Calcutta to participate in the centenary celebrations of CCI [Confederation of Indian Industry]. The Singapore prime minister had a meeting with Mr. Narasimha Rao at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] this morning. Both the leaders discussed bilateral and regional issues.

Technology Park Aid Agreement Signed

BK0501115795 Singapore Radio One in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 95

[All figures in Singapore dollars]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About $200 billion worth of corporate agreements between Singapore and India were signed today in Calcutta. A Singapore consortium will help build a $100-million technology park in Haryana. The pact was signed with Indian construction firm (Unitech) and the Haryana Urban Development Authority to develop the 70-hectare park.

A Singapore group of First Capital Corporation, (Takraw), and (Paremeswara) Holdings, will own a 40-percent stake. The event was witnessed by Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong and Indian Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mrs. Sukhbans Kaur, and the minister of state for surface transport, J.D. Tytler. Mr. Yeow and 36 local businessmen are currently with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in Calcutta for the centenary celebration of the Confederation of Indian Industries.

At a business seminar today, Mr. Yeow said the flurries of activities between India and Singapore show their growing strategic alliance. And with a win-win philosophy, Singapore has full competency to help India expand its trade and tourism sectors. Four other pacts were also signed. They covered cooperation in services, telecommunications infrastructure, and aqua culture.

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Air India Begins Thiruvananthapuram-Singapore Flights

BK0101110395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Air India today started a direct flight from Thiruvananthapuram to Singapore. Inaugurating the flight, the Kerala chief minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, said the new link will not only cater to the needs of travelling public from Kerala to Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Australia, Korea, Japan, and the west coast of USA, but will also open up new vistas in areas of trade and tourism promotion. The flights to Singapore will be nonstop and will operate on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Agreements Signed With Iran at Joint Commission

Agricultural Cooperation Expanded

LD0401180295 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec. 4, IRNA—Iranian and Indian officials on Wednesday [4 January] inked several letters of understanding on expansion of cooperation including an agricultural cooperation agreement.

The agreements were signed by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs R.L. Bahtia [title as received], at Indira Gandhi International Airport, prior to the former's departure for Calcutta.

Velayati, who arrived here Monday to participate in Iran-India Joint Commission, and left for Calcutta Wednesday to deliver a lecture at a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Indian Industries Confederation.

According to the deputy minsiter of economy and financial affairs, the monetary value of Irano-Indian non-oil trade exchanges stood at dlrs. 117.5 million in 1991, dlrs. 244.8 million in 1992 and dlrs. 304.9 million in 1993.

The trade imbalance between Iran and India, excluding oil trade, increased from dlrs. 63.1 million in 1991 to dlrs. 212.3 million in 1992 but dropped to dlrs. 142.9 million in 1993.

Railways, Other Projects Contracted

LD0401223295 Tehran IRNA in English 2123 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Jan. 4, IRNA—India and Iran decided today to conclude by January end a contract agreement to execute a dlrs 25 million signaling project for the Iranian railways and negotiate a multilateral tie up on transit trade between India and Central Asia through Iranian soil.

The two countries also agreed to take measures to remove all non-tariff restrictions on ships and cargo berthing at their ports.

The decisions were taken at the eighth meeting of the Iran-India Joint Commission which concluded here this morning.

The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the Indian minister of state for external affairs, R.L. Bhatia, led their respective delegations.

During the meeting a comprehensive review of bilateral relations was undertaken. It was also decided to hold the first review meeting for speedy implementation of the joint commission proposals here, in March-April later this year. Sub-committees relating to the fields of agriculture, [word indistinct], industry, transport, communications, petroleum and consular, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation met during the joint commission session.

At the meeting, the Iranian side proposed an early state visit by the President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to India.

Reviewing the progress relating to a natural gas pipeline project from Iran to India, the commission agreed that a decision to select the consultants for undertaking prefeasibility study for the project will be taken in Tehran later this month.

Specific items identified for joint sector ventures between the two countries were, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, textiles, machine tools, auto parts and leather items.

New Dates Announced for State Assembly Elections

Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh Rescheduled

BK0301084395 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission today partially modified the schedule for assembly elections in Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh and announced new dates for the elections. Polling will now take place on the 11th of March in Arunachal Pradesh instead of the 4th of February as announced earlier. In Gujarat, the polling will now take place on the 20th and the 25th of next month.

A press note of the Election Commission says the polls in both Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat are being postponed as the state governments have asked for more time to complete the process of issuing voter identity cards. The governments were to have completed the process by 15 January but have sought one month's extension. They have assured the commission that the process of issuing identity cards will be completed by the 15th of February. The notification for the assembly

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election in Gujarat will be issued tomorrow and for Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday as scheduled.

Bihar Postponed by 2 Weeks

BK0301084795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Assembly elections in Bihar have been postponed by about a fortnight. These will now take place on 5, 7, and 9 March. The Election Commission announced the modified schedule this morning following the Bihar government's commitment to issue identity cards to voters by the 28th of next month. In a five-page order, the commission warned that it will not agree to any further extension of time. It also made it clear that the commission will have to allow the events to take their own course if the Bihar government fails to carry out its statutory obligation on the identity cards issue.

Giving the background to the modified poll schedule, the commission came down heavily on the Bihar government for not speedily implementing the identity card scheme despite adequate notice and all possible relaxations in the time schedule for the purpose. The poll process in Bihar will be set in motion from the 16th of this month itself with the issuing of poll notification by the governor. The last date for filing of nominations will be the 23d and scrutiny will take place the following day. The last date for withdrawal of nominations will be the 27th of January. The counting of votes will take place on 11 March. The commission's order said that the entire poll process in Bihar will be completed by the 14th of March, just a day before the term of the present assembly expires.

Orissa Polls Delayed Until Mar

BK0401092395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-phased assembly polls in Orissa has been rescheduled to the 7th and 9th of March. Earlier the elections were scheduled on the 9th and the 12th of February. The Election Commission in a press note issued today announced the modified schedule of the assembly polls following the state government's commitment to distribute identity cards to voters by the 25th of next month. The new date for counting of votes will be 11th March instead of 4th as scheduled earlier. However, the date of notification, last date for filing of nominations and scrutiny and withdrawal remains the same. The date of notification will be the 10th of this month and the last date of filing nominations will be the 17th. The Election Commission's order, however, warned that it will not agree to any further extension of time for the assembly polls. It said the entire election process in the state will be completed by the 14th of March.

Iran

Kurds View Turkey's Plans To Buy U.S. Cluster Bombs

NC0201092995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Request To Purchase Cluster Bombs From America Has Caused Concern Among Humanitarian Circles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the protests and criticism by international and humanitarian forums of the Turkish regime's undemocratic treatment of its political opposition and its trampling of the principles of democracy, especially with the expulsion of Kurds from the Turkish parliament and their trial and imprisonment for reasons that democratic and humanitarian circles consider empty and illogical, Turkey's request to purchase 1,000 cluster bombs from the United States made the Human Rights Watch Organization [HRWO] formally express its concern and ask the U.S. Government not to grant the request.

During the past two years the Turkish regime has intensified its attacks on the Kurdish areas in Turkey and has—under the label of struggle against the Kurdish Workers Party, the PKK—set fire to many villages. It has also intensified pressure on the residents in these areas to leave their homes so that a vaster arena for crushing the Kurdish freedom-fighters can be created, warning that if this order is disobeyed they will be forced to leave.

Recently the Turkish Government has attempted to purchase a large quantity of cluster bombs worth more than $8 million from an American company in a bid to crush the Kurdish people and the PKK through military means to destroy the Kurdish people's movement that seeks justice and freedom in Turkey. Recently the HRWO, which is based in New York, stated that America should refrain from selling these bombs to Turkey because the organization believes that it will use these bombs in its air raids against PKK camps and the defenseless Kurds in Turkey. As an example, it has referred to Turkey's air raids in the current year and to the use of these bombs near (Zivyul).

In a speech in Washington a Turkish diplomat denied the HRWO's accusations. The organization reports that Turkey is continuing to insist that America sell these bombs because such sales are permitted to all NATO members and are being allowed to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Turkey has said that it will use these bombs only for NATO objectives. Insisting that the objective behind the purchase of cluster bombs is to use them in military attacks against the Kurdish strugglers and defenseless people, (Steve Voss), head of the HRWO Arms Committee, says that Turkey's activities against the PKK rebels have been interpreted as a violation of human rights and of the rules of war in relation to a large

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number of defenseless people who have been forcefully expelled from their villages. We are very concerned that Turkey will use the cluster bombs, without any reservations, in its air raids against the Kurdish rebels and that this will hurt defenseless people in the cities and villages, he said.

According to available information, the U.S. State Department has not yet approved the sale of these bombs and a final decision is expected to be announced by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Since 13,000 people have been killed since 1984 in Turkey's war with its opponents, and since the Turkish Government sees the solution to the Kurdish problem as suppression and the intensification of military operations—methods that have caused concern in the world's international and humanitarian organizations—the HRWO says that in addition to refraining from the sale of these bombs to Turkey, America should receive a written statement from Turkey that any type of arms purchased will not be used in violation of human rights.

Velayati Visit to New Delhi Viewed as 'Favorable'

Kashmir Deemed 'Most Significant' Issue

LD0301154595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in New Delhi on a three-day visit, Monday January 2nd called on Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and presented to him a written message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the message, Iran's president, referring to favorable avenues for bilateral cooperation, urged expansion of this trend, especially in economic and political fields.

Dr. Velayati, in his meeting with the Indian prime minister, reviewing regional and global issues, stressed the two countries' cooperation in railroad affairs, especially in India's transit railroad link with the Central Asian states through Iran. Mr. Rao, too, pointing to the age-old ties between the two states, called for cooperation with Iran in constructing a gas pipeline for the transfer of Iranian gas to India and also for collaboration in other major economic projects in the two countries.

In the opinion of political observers, the situation in Kashmir is among the issues which have constantly been discussed by the officials of the two countries at different levels during their visits. This subject, too, has a special place in the current talks of Dr Velayati in New Delhi. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir is an Islamic crisis because the region is an integral part of the Islamic world due to its 12 million strong Muslim population.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the only proper way to terminate the Kashmir crisis is accessible through adoption of a realistic attitude by the Indian statesmen on the subject.

In this regard, it is a principled and fully logical demand that the sentiments of the world Muslims, especially those of the Kashmir Muslims, are respected and it had always been expected of the Indian government to adopt peaceful policies, respect the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and revise the treatment of the Kashmir Muslims by the Indian troops in order to level the ground for reaching a rational and durable solution for the Kashmir crisis.

At any rate, it is expected that Mr. Velayati's current visit, besides reviewing the common grounds for the two countries and cooperation within the framework of the joint economic commission, will also specify what is going to be on top of the agenda during the forthcoming visit to India by the Iranian president, which carries a lot of significance.

But, according to political observers, correction of India's stance on Kashmir continues to remain as the most significant issue that can have direct bearing in determining the level of the Iran-India ties.

Velayati Discusses Outcome

NC0501084295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who had gone to New Delhi to participate in the eighth session of the joint Iranian-Indian economic commission, returned to Tehran last night. In an exclusive interview with the foreign minister, our political correspondent Qoroqi asked him to comment on the role of the two countries' cooperation as far as the future of cooperation between the two countries and in the region is concerned. I invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Qoroqi] Iran can play an effective role as a link between the Central Asian countries and the Subcontinent. How warmly did the Indian officials welcome this role?

[Velayati] Traditionally, Indian officials always had good relations with this part of the world during the rule of the former Soviet Union. Now, after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of new countries or new republics, there is a great wish in India to expand relations with each and every one of these republics. And the best way to gain access to these republics is through the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The initial steps have been taken. An Indian delegation has visited Iran and has examined the potentials offered by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The outcome of studies on using Iran as a transit route to Central Asia has been positive. These countries need Indian products. They are acquainted with Indian products, and vice versa.

Therefore, we think that the prospects of relations between India and Central Asian countries via Iran is expanding.

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[Qoroqi] In view of your talks with India's high-ranking officials, to what extent can we count on India as a political and economic ally?

[Velayati] India is the largest nonaligned country and the largest democracy in the world. India's long record in the preservation of its political independence and its nonalignment on the powerful Western factions have helped to give India the character of an independent entity. Undoubtedly this characteristic and this role are effective as far as the future of our long-term cooperation with India is concerned.

The Islamic Republic of Iran too—the most important gain of which on the international scene has been its political independence—can naturally be India's natural ally. More correctly, cooperation between two countries that enjoy true political independence and nonalignment in the world can play a major role in regional stability and security and in strengthening the Nonaligned Movement.

[Qoroqi] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] I thank you too. [end recording]

Commentary Reviews 'Common Grounds'

NC0501085495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Foreign Minister Velayati returned to the country after three days of talks with high-ranking officials in New Delhi. Before leaving New Delhi yesterday, he participated in the centennial of the founding of the confederation of Indian industries in Calcutta.

In his speech at the ceremony, our foreign minister stressed that Iranian-Indian relations are long-lasting, and added: With the sociopolitical developments that we have been facing since the beginning of this decade, an opportunity has been granted to Third World countries and especially countries in southern Asia to find a favorable role in the formation of the new world order and to use their existing capabilities and to thus reestablish their national identity and independence.

Undoubtedly these capabilities can be used only within the framework of all-around cooperation among Asian countries, and this enjoys a special position in the relations between the two Asian countries of Iran and India. By expanding their political and economic ties, these two countries, which were the target of colonialist plots, can address each other's strategic needs.

In the wake of the new century, Tehran and New Delhi intend to implement new plans for mutual cooperation. These plans will include the creation of a type of economic infrastructure in Asia—an infrastructure that can prepare favorable grounds for Iranian-Indian cooperation in Central Asia and thus create a great body of vast countries between the East and the West in southern Asia.

The significance of this becomes more obvious when we take the rich natural and human resources that exist in Iran and India into consideration. These resources are so great that they create the possibility for the creation of an economic axis in Asia.

At any rate, new world conditions and the pressures that are being inflicted on Iran and India to set aside their independence-seeking policies are creating common grounds for the two countries to open a new chapter in their political and economic relations; and definitely the upcoming visit by our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to India will create yet another development in the two countries' relations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Georgian Envoy

LD0401171195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Vakhtang Goguadze, deputy chairman of the Georgian parliament, today.

At this meeting the president described the relations between Iran and Georgia as historic and extensive and said that they constitute a proper basis for a new era of cooperation.

Stressing the Iranian people's interest in the fate of the people of Caucasia and Central Asia, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed regret at the military action in Chechnya and the continued bloodshed in that region, describing the move as a blunder. Expressing hope for a peaceful resolution of the Chechen crisis, the president said: The reflection of such an approach will have adverse effects on relations between Russia and Islamic states and will ignite the fire of hatred and revenge in the hearts of the people. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Such measures jeopardize regional cooperation as well and make the newly independent states apprehensive about the future preservation of their independence and security.

During the meeting the Georgian deputy parliamentary chairman described the present stage of relations between the two countries as a historic one in the renewal, deepening, and extending of past ties.

Expressing regret over the distorted reporting by the Western media of remarks by Mr. Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, concerning Chechnya, Mr. Goguadze said: Georgia has never supported a military solution for Chechnya and believes this to be detrimental to the strengthening of friendly relations among neighboring states.

The deputy chairman of the Georgian parliament also informed the president of his country's readiness to help

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in the exchange of goods between the regional states and Europe via Georgian roads and waterways.

Foreign Ministry Offers Aid for Chechen Muslims

LD0401184495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has described the adverse consequences of the continued bloody clashes in Chechnya as tragic and expressed concern about the continuation of the clashes which have caused death, injury, and homelessness among a great number of innocent Muslims of the region.

Announcing this today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The resort to force and adoption of military measures by the Russian Government do not help resolve the crisis in Chechnya in any way. He said: The continuation of clashes in Chechnya offend Muslims' feelings further and the extent of the clashes and bloodshed will finally harm Russia's credibility in the Islamic world. The spokesman added: Russia's destructive military operations in Chechnya have proved that point.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman referred to widescale killing and destruction in Chechnya at the onset of the cold season and announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide humanitarian relief aid for the people of Chechnya in order to reduce their problems and suffering, as well as any kind of political effort for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

On the Tajik peace process and reports of cease-fire violations inside Tajikistan and on its borders, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who was interviewed by IRNA, said: As an observer state in the Tajik peace talks and because of its friendly relations and common interests with Tajikistan, Iran expresses its concern over these reports. The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the continuation of this trend does not serve the interests of any of the parties involved or the Tajik nation, and calls for good will by the parties involved in order to stop the worsening of the situation.

The spokesman stressed: Iran expects the United Nations and the special envoy of the UN secretary general to increase the number of UN observers and step up the activities of the cease-fire committee in order to end the tension and prevent the spread of an atmosphere of mistrust.

He concluded by saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as in the past, announces its readiness to help the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the friendly country of Tajikistan.

Oil Drilling With Azerbaijan in Caspian Approved

LD0401192195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At its most recent session, the Economic Council approved the carrying out of drilling operations in the Caspian Sea in cooperation with the Azerbaijan Oil Company, with a credit amounting to $14.5 million.

The council also confirmed a project for seismographic operations in the Caspian Sea, in cooperation with the same company, which are to be carried out with a credit of $2.1 million.

Saudi 'Intervention' in Bahrain, Gulf Viewed

NC3012120294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Dec 94 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "The Unfortunate Gendarme"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bahrain's Islamic Liberation Front has stated that the Saudi regime has sent at least 4,000 men from its special guard unit to Manama to crush the Bahraini people. This report, which has been confirmed by some reliable sources, shows the extent of Riyadh's intervention in Bahrain's domestic affairs on the one hand and proves how much the Saudis are investing in the regional shaykhdoms in order to assist in the crushing of popular movements on the other.

The Saudis have become the gendarme of America and of Israel on the southern coasts of the Persian Gulf; and wherever we see a military attack against pious Muslims and especially Shiites in the regional shaykhdoms, we can also clearly see the footsteps of the Saudi politicians. This is at a time when the Saudis have been facing a growing wave of dissatisfaction inside their own country for some time. Saudi Arabia is now living through one of its most unstable and critical social and economic moments in the recent decade. Never have the Saudis faced such complicated economic, political, and social problems as today. Also, never have the Saudis' border disputes with its neighbors been as extensive as today.

The domestic economic problems and the pessimism of regimes neighboring Saudi Arabia because of the latter's expansionism have placed the Saudi rule in front of two bottlenecks. But, given the choice, the Saudis fear the growth of Islamic feelings and the intensification of popular dissatisfaction both at home and in the neighboring shaykhdoms more than any other problem. And this fear is reflected in the savage violence that they resort to in crushing the people's feelings inside Saudi Arabia, as well as in Saudi Arabia's security investments in the other shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf's southern coasts. Such investments have always been one of the effective tools which the Al Sa'ud clan has used to extend the umbrella of its domination to include its other

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neighbors who are members of the not-so-united Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

Therefore, the intensification of the Al Sa'ud clan's fear over the culmination of popular dissatisfaction in the GCC countries speaks of the shaykhs' inability to harness dissent and to fool public opinion on the one hand, and of the weakness and helplessness of these regimes in establishing the type of stability and tranquility that they want in the region on the other.

Foreigners Propose $4.6 Billion in Investments

LD0401191295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretary for free trade zones' supreme council has announced that foreign investors have applied to invest $4.6 billion in Iran's free trade industry zones.

Mr. Alviri, The presidential adviser and secretary of Iran's free trade industry zones, announced today that memorandums of understanding concerning applications by foreign investors have been drawn up and relevant negotiations are continuing. He said: The investments are mainly for constructing refineries, petrochemical industries, chemical fertilizers, power stations, steel industries, hotel. and housing construction.

On maximum ownership by foreign investors, he said:

[Begin Alviri recording] From the viewpoint of shares, foreign investors can own up to 100 percent of the shares in the production or service units which they create. Therefore, there could be partnerships between Iranian and foreigners varying from 1 to 100 percent.

From the viewpoint of ownership of land, foreigners are only allowed to rent land in the free zones for 20 or 30 years. But they will not be allowed land ownership. [end recording]

Mr. Alviri added: With the exception of the nationals of the regime which occupies Qods, all foreign nationals are allowed to invest in Iran's free zones and to be active in their spheres of interest within the framework of Iran's comprehensive free trade industry zones plan.

Mr. Alviri added: Beside foreign investors, by the end of Aban [month beginning 23 October 1994], 200 internal applications had been received for investment in the free zones in various industrial and service spheres.

*Minister Inaugurates Commercial Data Center

95LA0063E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8 (IRNA)—Commerce Minister Yahya Ale-Eshaq here Monday said Iran's Commercial Data Center is to be active in collecting and ordering data, setting up commercial data banks and offering free-of-charge information in the field of commerce to the public.

Ale-Eshaq, who was speaking at the opening ceremony of the center, said the center will be capable of having active contacts with over 1,200 world data banks and rendering commercial consultation services to the applicants within the framework of commercial information and statistics available on the computer.

He hailed information as being an "important" commercial tool and said commerce would be meaningless without it.

He said the center will give sound, logical and scientific information about Iran, the region and the world to the clients.

According to Ale-Eshaq the center was at present active in offering information cn how to register orders, companies involved in trade with Iran, transportation services, commercial consultation, world trade, import-export regulations and notes as well as world data banks.

*Rafiqdust Details Mosta'zafan Foundation Activities

95LA0067F Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 18—Head of the Mosta'zafan Foundation Mohsen Rafiqdust said here last Wednesday that by developing hotel services and constructing new recreational centers in regions of tourist attraction of the country, Iran's annual tourism income can reach $5b [billion], in less than 5 years.

Rafiqdust reiterated that development plans should be implemented in the tourism sector in order to attract a portion of the world's multi-billion-dollar earning from the tourism industry.

He stated that by setting up 18 hotels throughout Iran and five tourism organizations, in addition to the Azadi International Tourism Organization (AITO), the Mosta'zafan Foundation has played an effective role in the country's tourism industry.

"During the past five years, the foundation earned some $40m [million] in hard currency from tourism", he said. Referring to the foundation's production capacity, Rafiqdust claimed that 20 percent of textile, 43 percent of soft drink, 73 percent glass container, 60 percent of nylon string, 21 percent of particle board, 39 percent of highbulk string, 26 percent of tire and tube as well as 27 percent of ceramic manufacturing industries of Iran belongs to the foundation.

Elaborating on the foundation's foreign project, he said construction of Quetta-Karachi highway with a total investment of $34m was the first one. He added that the project was started in 1993 and will be completed before March 21, 1995.

With regard to the foundation's shipping activities, Rafiqdust said the Bonyad Shipping Co. (BOSCO) transports 3m tons of goods throughout the world on an

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annual basis. "The foundation's airline, by purchasing 10 new cargo and passenger planes, will also expand its activities", he added.

The Mosta'zafan Foundation is planning to construct a 42-storey building, plans and supervision of which will be carried out by Iranian experts, Rafiqdust mentioned.

*Smuggling of Foreign Goods Rampant in Hormozegan

95LA0067A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16—The smuggling of foreign-made goods in the Hormozegan Province, south Iran has continued unabated in recent years despite persistent efforts to confront it.

The uncontrolled entry of a host of foreign consumer goods such as make-up items, textiles, cigarettes, soft drinks, hi-fi equipment systems,... into Hormozegan has now turned into a major problem for this province, whose negative impacts on the country's overall economy is also very noticeable.

The absorption of men, women, as well as children into this unhealthy economic trend is assuming new dimensions every day.

Using boats and rafts, smugglers enter products from the United Arab Emirates, Ras-Ul Khaimeh and Khasb into the country that are absolutely of no use to the country.

The high profit resulting from this unhealthy economic trend has made the people of this region gradually a stranger to the culture of using the sea riches in the Persian Gulf waters, turning them into the promoters, of foreign-made goods.

Hormozegan's economic observers are of the opinion that the smuggling of goods trend in this region is highly planned, and that various networks abroad orchestrate this unhealthy trend. The observers say that the majority of smugglers work as wage earners for these networks and are assigned with the task of entering the goods into the country, and once in the country the distribution is taken over by a different group of professionals.

The leader's representative and the Friday prayer imam of Bandar Abbas, Hojj. Na'im Abadi say that in regard to the campaign against smuggling, it is the principal people behind the operation that must be identified, and that as long as the unemployment problem has not been effectively solved, there is very little chance of stopping the smuggling problem that goes on wasting the country's wealth.

The big-time smugglers use youngsters, women and children, or in general individuals who can get away from punishment, says Hormozegan Province Islamic Revolution court public prosecutor Hashemi. To deal a terminal blow to the problem of smuggling, the principal actors must be identified who should then be treated firmly, he said.

Hashemi said more than 80 percent of the existing cases in his court deal with the smuggle of goods into Iran, and that in the first half of this year cases were formed against some 19 thousand people charged with smuggling.

Despite heavy fines taken from the smugglers, the available information indicate that the goods smuggling trend into the country is still having an upward trend. According to the head of Hormozegan Province's Customs Mr. Abassinia, some 4.8b rials fines were taken from goods smugglers in 1993. The number of smuggling cases in 1985 was some 800 which rose sharply to 4,720 in 1993.

Experts believe some of the ways to face the growing problem of foreign goods smuggle being into the country would be through the transfer or construction of job producing industries in that region, education on the use of sea sources and informing them about the negative and destructive aspects of goods smuggling into the country. [sentence as published]

*Carpet Exports Via Air To Increase 45-50%

95LA0063C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 9 (IRNA)—Director General of Mehrabad Airport Customs Department Mehdi Samadi said that carpet exports by air will increase by 45-50 percent with the opening of the Carpet Export hall at the airport in a near future.

Speaking to reporters, Samadi said that the present rate of carpet exports by air stood at 30 percent of the total volume exported.

He noted that air transportation would further guarantee the safety of the exports and hence exporters preferred to send their goods by air.

*3% of Annual Fruit Production Set for Export

95LA0063D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Nov 94 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumieh (W. Azarbaijan), Nov. 9 (IRNA)—Just 3 percent of the country's fresh fruits output, worth $300m [million], is being exported annually, deputy minister of commerce for foreign trade promotion, Mohammad Bakhshi said here Tuesday [8 November].

Bakhshi, who made the remark at a 34-day imports-exports seminar in this northwestern provincial capital, said the fruit harvest in Iran averages 21m tons every year of which a mere 600,000 tons is exported.

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He underscored the need for traders and merchants to acquaint themselves with the latest information and regulations concerning international trade.

Director general of the provincial commerce department, Hamid Satvati said last year Rls. 198b worth of non-oil goods were exported via the customs office here.

Satvati said agricultural products accounted for 56 percent of the exports, industrial products for 40 percent and remaining 4 percent were made up of miners and other goods.

He added that $35m worth of goods were transacted at the border markets of West Azarbaijan with neighboring countries over the preceding year.

West Azarbaijan has a total of four border markets on its frontiers with turkey and the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan.

*Construction of 4 New Caspian Jetties Planned

95LA0067B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar Anzali, Gilan Prov., Nov. 18 (IRNA)—Four new jetties will be set up at Bandar Anzali port, in this Caspian Sea Province, and the harbor area will be increased by eight hectares in the first stage of an extension project of the port city, a local official has said.

The implementation of the project started this year with a budget of Rls. 4b, Muhammad Ali Tabatabaei, director general at the Ports and Shipping Organization said.

Bandar Anzali with five jetties and a port area of 200,000 square meters is Iran's most important commercial port at the Caspian Sea, said Tabatabaie [as published].

The port is able of handling one million tons of goods for either import or export purposes per day.

*War-Damaged Khark Island Jetty Reconstructed

95LA0063G Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Nov. 14 (IRNA)—The repair of a jetty used for export of chemicals on Khark Island has been completed at a cost of Rls2.5b [billian rials].

The manager of the Marine Industrial Company of Iran, Salemizadeh said on Sunday that the reconstruction work included building of 600 meters of concrete walls and repair of 500 meters of conveyors and part of a pipeline used for export of natural gas.

The jetty, one of the most important in the country for export of sulphur and natural gas, was seriously damaged during the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, he said.

It took one year to reconstruct the jetty, the official added.

*Official on Plans for Cultural House in Ashgabat

95LA0063F Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12—The Islamic Republic of Iran is to set up a cultural house in the Turkmen capital of Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] in the near future.

Iran's cultural attache to Turkmenistan, Dr. Badiezadeh, citing the decision on the establishment of the house, said that the measure was intended to improve bilateral cultural exchanges between the two countries.

He said Iran's active participation in that country's independence celebration such as the dispatch of traditional Iranian music bands from Turbat Jam, Mazandaran and Qoochan to the Republic of Turkmenistan, or the setting up of tourism and handicraft fairs in Ashgabat constitute measures by Tehran to improve cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Mr. Badiezadeh referred to the signing of cultural agreements between the universities and colleges in the two countries, the translation and dispatch of books and films and plan to organize an Iran cultural week in Turkmenistan as among his office's future programs.

He said, agreements have been signed between Iran's Sabzevar Teacher Training University and Turkmenistan's Makhtoum Qoli University for the participation of Farsi language and literature students in the one month long classes held in the two countries.

*Lavan Oil Refinery Production Up

95LA0063B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 9 (IRNA)—Production capacity of the oil refinery on Iran's Persian Gulf island of Lavan, has increased from 20,000 to 30,000 barrels a day, said the chairman of the Shiraz and Lavan refineries, engineer Mohammad 'Ali Esma'ili.

He said the increase was due to the installation of new systems to circulate kerosene in the refinery.

Also, grounds have been prepared for production of kerosene and jet fuel, he said, adding that the capacity would reach 40,000 barrels a day by further modernizing the refinery.

Arrangements for production of leadless, ordinary and super gasoline would be possible in the future once the catalyst unit of the refinery goes on stream.

The refinery started operation in 1975 and at present produces gas oil, fuel oil and naphtha. It is supposed to produce kerosene and jet fuel in future.

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Pakistan

Reaction to Upcoming U.S. Defense Secretary Visit

Official Speculates on U.S Intentions

BK0401145195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and the United States are to discuss the strategic environment in South Asia, expansion of their long-standing military relations, and the held up U.S. defense supplies during the visit of the American Defense Secretary, Mr. William Perry, beginning on Tuesday [10 January]. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the visit is part of the series of high-level exchanges with the United States. He said the issue of nonproliferation will also be discussed, but it will not be the major focus of the visit. He rejected speculations that Pakistan was being pressed to sign a Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] or otherwise compromise its nuclear program. He said as a result of discussions over the past several months, Pakistan is neither being asked to sign the NPT unilaterally nor being pressed to roll back its nuclear program.

The spokesman also refuted as totally unfounded some speculative reports that Gwadar was being leased out. The spokesman said there is no truth in such reports.

Anti-Perry Demonstration Takes Shape

BK0401143895 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 4 Jan 95 pp 8, 6

[Report by special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rawalpindi—Preparations are at their peak for the protest demonstration sponsored by Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] on 6 January in Rawalpindi to awaken, organize, motivate, and unite the Pakistani nation against increasing U.S. interference in the beloved motherland's internal affairs, the intense U.S. pressure on nuclear and Kashmir issues, and enigmatic trade agreements with U.S. investors. The demonstration held prior to the high-level U.S. delegation visit will be led by Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the JI leader. Dr. Mohammad Kamal, the party leader for Rawalpindi district, and Mohammad Abbas Butt, general secretary of the party, are visiting various parts of Rawalpindi to review the preparations and arrangements for the demonstration. Meanwhile, leaflets are being distributed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, saying that despite restrictions on all kinds of U.S. aid to Pakistan, the massive flow of dollars into the country on the pretext of foreign investment, the stream of U.S. delegations visiting Islamabad, and the open and secret visits of U.S. diplomats to Pakistan prove that the Government of Pakistan is being made a victim of the U.S. conspiracy against Pakistan's national interests.

Apprehensions are being expressed about the 7 January Islamabad visit of the U.S. defense secretary, because Pakistan is being coerced to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty while Israel and India have been given complete freedom on their nuclear programs. Attempts are being made to prevent Pakistan from supporting Kashmiris, so as to enable India to achieve decisively the objectives it is pursuing by its oppression in occupied Kashmir. There is scheming to grab Gwadar and turn it into a U.S. base. In the leaflet, the JI has appealed to the people to support the party in resisting the increasing U.S. interference. Meanwhile, banners of various sizes have been put up at all main roads and important places in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, especially the 6 January route of the precession in Rawalpindi, by the JI, (Shabab Ali), and other organizations.

U.S. 'Accepts' Stand on NPT

BK0501111195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Jan 95 pp 1, 5

[Report by Aroosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan 4—A Foreign Office spokesman has said Wednesday [4 January] the US now accepts that it is neither fair nor feasible for Pakistan to accept unilateral obligations and restraints with regard to NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. He said "neither Pakistan is being asked to sign the NPT unilaterally nor it has been pressed to roll back its nuclear programme."

The spokesman was reacting to various news reports accusing the Benazir Government of a sell-out on country's nuclear programme by agreeing to sign the NPT unilaterally during the forthcoming visit of US Defence Secretary William Perry.

He said that the visit is taking place at a time when Pakistan and US are forging a new partnership for peace and progress and to work together for the construction of progressive, moderate states in area which extends beyond South Asia, Persian Gulf and Central Asia.

The spokesman said that no specific objectives have been laid down for the visit but nonproliferation is not the major focus of the visit. "Pakistan would naturally be discussing the matters of mutual interest including the strategic environment in South Asia, preservation, expansion and consolidation of longstanding military relations between Pakistan and the USA and various issues relating to the held-up US defence supplies to Pakistan.

US Defence Secretary William Perry will be leading a 40-member high powered delegation to Pakistan which will also include the Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, Assistant Secretary Defence Joseph Nye and Commander of Centcom [Central Command] General Peay. Perry will proceed to India after holding discussion with Pakistani officials.

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The spokesman said that the speculations about Pakistan being pressed to sign NPT or otherwise compromise its nuclear programme are totally false. "In fact as a result of Pakistan's discussions with US over the past few months, Washington now has a better understanding of our position," the spokesman said.

He said Pakistan and US have been sharing a common concern about the prospects of a nuclear or conventional arms race in South Asia.

Pakistan and US will work together to evolve regional and global understanding to address the shared concern about the nuclear non- proliferation.

Pakistan welcomes the US interest in the promotion of peace and security in South Asia and both the countries have a broad understanding about the issues which need to be addressed to promote security, arms control and non-proliferation on an equitable and non-discriminatory bases. These issues include regional disputes such as Kashmir, the control of the arms imbalance and the danger of a nuclear arms race.

The spokesman said that though US desires to be even-handed in its policies towards India and Pakistan, the US law is at variance with this policy and constitutes a structural impediment in Pak-US relations. Pakistan asked the US once again to bring its law in conformity with its declared policies.

Commenting on Pakistan's position on the issue of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the spokesman said that it is an objective Pakistan has been advocating for 30 years. A CTBT will prevent further qualitative refinement of nuclear weapons. It will also halt the vertical and horizontal nuclear proliferation. Pakistan supports the objectives of CTBT which is also supported by developing and non-developing countries.

Reacting sharply to publications of news items despite many official contradictions about the alleged sell-out of Gwadar Port, the spokesman once again announced that no area in Gwadar has been given on lease nor there has been any proposal under consideration for the sale or lease of the Gwadar port. He said that Gwadar does offer prospects of the construction of deep sea harbour and Pakistan is trying to attract foreign investments to build such harbour but no concrete proposal has been received so far.

He said this proposal had been under consideration for the last several years. The proposal received a fresh impetus after the independence of Central Asian Republics. No other port in the region could provide faster and economical transit facilities to CIS for trade with the outside world.

He said the existing fish harbour at Gwadar does have adequate cold storage and marketing facilities and an Omani company has expressed the desire to set up a cold storage at Gwadar port.

The spokesman regretted that highly speculative and baseless news have been printed despite official contradictions. The spokesman expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the less of civilian lives in the Chechen capital of Groznyy and called upon the parties to hold negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

Bhutto: Policies Led to Improved Ties

BK0401150395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said there has been an improvement in the Pakistan-U.S. relation due to the successful foreign policy of her government. She was addressing the annual convention of the Bhutto Welfare Association at Naudero today. The prime minister said that last September a U.S. presidential mission had visited Pakistan, and now, after a period of 10 years, the U.S. defense secretary is coming to Pakistan this month.

About Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, the prime minister said we are strictly pursuing our principled and just stand on nuclear nonproliferation. The prime minister also spoke about the success attained by Pakistan in pursuing its foreign policy and said that Pakistan is no longer isolated in the comity of nations. She said that recently the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] summit conference in Casablanca adopted unanimously a resolution on Kashmir and a Kashmir Declaration was also adopted there.

The prime minister also recalled her visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina along with the Turkish prime minister to express solidarity with the Bosnian people. She recounted the steps taken by her government for bringing about a communication revolution in the country and for promotion of computer literacy. [passage omitted]

Airport Security Tightened After Hijacking Threats

BK0201105795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Dec 29 (PPI): The Airport Security Force (ASF) has been put on 'high alert' in the country in view of threats received about the hijacking of aircraft of foreign airlines operating through Pakistan and the region.

The ASF has recently taken effective measures both at home and abroad to counter these threats not only for the foreign airlines but for the planes of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) as well.

Informed sources told PPI [Pakistan Press International] here Thursday [29 December] that the threats follow the hijacking of an Air France airbus A300 at Algiers airport last Saturday.

Security arrangements at the Quaid-i-Azam International Airport at Karachi have been specifically tightened in recent days by the ASF.

Almost 40 foreign airlines either operate flights to destinations in Pakistan or transit through Karachi every day.

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